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WRESTLER

Sammartino vs. Brodie
**THE NIGHT THE OFFICIALS SAVED
BRUNO'S TITLE**

DECEMBER 1976

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THE **Wrestler**

**TERRY
FUNK'S
TOUGHEST
MATCH...
AND HIS
BEST!**

**WHY
CHIEF
STRONGBOW
MUST DUMP
BILLY WHITE WOLF
AS HIS PARTNER**



NUNCHAKU

KARATE'S DEADLIEST FIGHTING STICKS!

Protect Yourself and your loved ones! STOP ANY ATTACKER with frightening devastating Nunchaku Sticks Swings Strikes Catches Pinches Choking and other wipe-out techniques all yours to learn in no time at all! The application of the Nunchaku to be effective requires a mere flick of the wrist quickly a firm grip and a sense of determination. You will be able to strike an opponent and whip out the chaku (one stick) quickly and effortlessly before your attacker can offer any defense. The greatest advantage of the Nunchakus over any other form of self-defense like Karate or Kung Fu is that this weapon is an extension of your hands and legs. With one swing the Nunchaku will double in size therefore shortening the distance between you and your opponent. Imagine being able to strike crush jab or thrust at your enemy without having to fear his mightiest kick or punch! Your attacker will not be prepared and will not be warned of the unusually long striking range of your Nunchakus. Also the sticks by themselves look relatively harmless. This being the case you have the great advantage of surprise which will allow you to handle any threatening situation that may occur.

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- Deadly Defenses
- Swings
- Blocks & Counters

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FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning system is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight losses--fast and easily!



BEFORE



AFTER

almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPEREXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to loose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept VI-1
Detroit, Michigan 48239

Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose \$9.95. (cash, check or money order)

Please charge ☐ Bank Americard
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Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Interbank No. _____

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____

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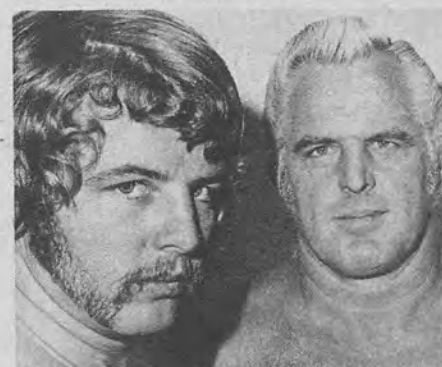
IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish

Wrestler^{THE}

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Mr. _____ Age....
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(Circle title and please print)

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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—STAN STASIAK
- 2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 3—BRUISER BRODIE
- 4—STAN HANSEN
- 5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 6—BOBO BRAZIL
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—TOR KAMATA
- 9—BILLY WHITE WOLF
- 10—VICTOR RIVERA

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—BILLY ROBINSON
- 3—PETER MAIVIA
- 4—MAD DOG VACHON
- 5—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 6—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 7—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—CHRIS TAYLOR
- 10—JIM BRUNZELL

MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

- 1—MR. WRESTLING II
- 2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 3—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 4—DUSTY RHODES
- 5—MIL MASCARAS
- 6—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—BILLY ROBINSON
- 9—WAHOO MCDANIEL
- 10—MIKE GRAHAM

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

- 1—JACK BRISCO
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 4—MR. WRESTLING II
- 5—JERRY LAWLER
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—FRITZ VON ERICH
- 9—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 10—BOB ORTON JR.

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 2—THE EXECUTIONERS
- 3—BOBBY DUNCUM & BLACKJACK LANZA
- 4—BOB BACKLUND & STEVE KEIRN
- 5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW & BILLY WHITE WOLF
- 6—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 7—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
- 8—THE MONGOLS
- 9—PHIL HICKERSON & DENNIS CONDRIY
- 10—BULLDOG BROWER & MIGHTY IGOR

MOST HATED WRESTLERS

- 1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 2—THE SHEIK
- 3—STAN HANSEN
- 4—ERNIE LADD
- 5—THE SPOILER
- 6—NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 7—MR. FUGI
- 8—TERRY FUNK
- 9—STAN STASIAK
- 10—JERRY LAWLER



STAN STASIAK



MAD DOG VACHON



ANDRE THE GIANT



ERNIE LADD

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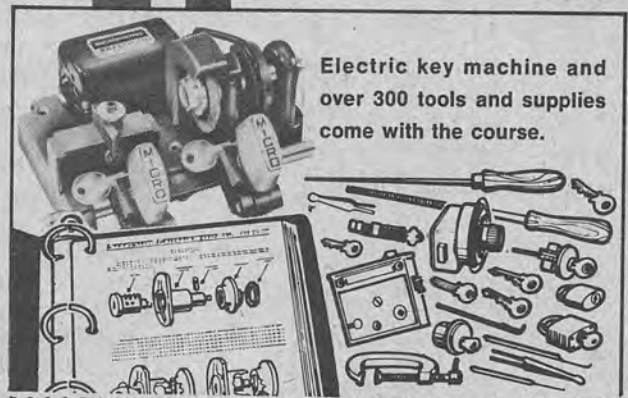


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Jack W. Gray, Mantua, N.J.

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Richard Kennedy, Philadelphia, Pa.



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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY!

By Bill Apter



Dusty Rhodes explains why he severely injured Beau James, manager of Ray Stevens. Now Ray plans to send "Big Dust" on his way to the hospital.

"YOU'LL PAY FOR this, you overgrown slob!"

The above is the explosive threat Ray Stevens has aimed at target Dusty Rhodes. The reason? Dusty got sick and tired of Ray's manager Beau James, interfering in a match in which the "American Dream" was wrestling Stevens. So Dusty ran from the ring, grabbed James, and gave him a pile-driver on the hard concrete floor. James is now in a hospital bed recovering from severe head and back

injuries. Stevens says, "Beau James never interferes in matches. Rhodes is a coward. He attacked a poor defenseless man and almost killed him. Is this what people call 'The American Dream'?"

By now you've probably heard that the Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower have become tag team partners. It's one of the most amazing incidents ever in pro wrestling. The two are wiping out all competition.

"Igor is glad that Brower has become his friend," noted Ivan Kalmikoff, Igor's manager. "I just hope this will last and that Brower and Igor will never wrestle and torture each other again."

Nikolai Volkoff's manager, Lou Albano thinks his man has been "shafted."

"We had to agree that when Nikolai wrestles Sammartino, he'd go easy on the old man," Albano claimed. "The promoters told us not to cripple the guy because they like him too much. So daddy, my man will do them a favor. He'll take the title from that lasagna brain and set him out to pasture just like they do with old horses! Ha! Ha! Ha!"

Terry Funk got an opportunity to wrestle Baba the Giant during a tag team match in Japan. Baba is the man who took Jack Brisco's title for one week before Jack won it back. Terry and Baba have never squared off in individual combat.

"I'm too damn busy to take on guys who aren't rated as top contenders," says Terry. "Baba, Jack Brisco, Dusty Rhodes—man, those guys are not the cream of the crop. None of them compare to me. I am the greatest champion in history!"

Greg Valentine is back to his rule-breaking ways... Fred Blassie is trying to get Tor Kamata a match against Sammartino... Phil Hickerson is going to appear before the NWA along with partner Dennis Condry due to

some photos we ran showing them using a lead pipe on Jackie Fargo... The Missouri Mauler and Pak Song are teaming again... The Mongolian Stomper and Jim Dillon, his manager, are at war with Mr. Wrestling II... Bob Armstrong and Robert Fuller are trying to get the Tennessee tag team title... Billy Robinson is negotiating for a shot at both Terry Funk's NWA belt and the AWA title held by Nick Bockwinkel... Bobo Brazil had a



Paul Jones has a broken arm and he's still wrestling! The NWA says he can do so at his own risk.

scientific match against Pampero Firpo in Detroit for the U.S. title. A great match—with a draw verdict.

Blackjack Mulligan has broken Paul Jones arm! However, Jones, with arm in a cast, is still wrestling! How'd that happen? Well when Ole Anderson had a broken arm he was allowed to wrestle with the cast (and he used it as a weapon). Paul brought that fact up to the commission and they said, "you may wrestle at your own risk like Anderson did. We assume no responsibility."

Lord Al Hays off to Japan... Fabulous Moolah still holding her title despite strong threats from Sue Green, Vicki Williams and Kitty Adams...

(Continued on page 51)

How To Get The Inca Sun God To Bring You Miracles Of Wealth & Happiness (As He Has For Me).

An amazing but true experience that changed my entire life. By Robert L. McCarthy.

Just a few years ago I was really down on my luck. I could never seem to make ends meet. I had a job I hated and I could feel the ax about to fall.

I'd had an operation on my ankle and the cast had just been off a few days when my employers sent me on a business trip to Peru. (I told them my leg was still very weak and a long trip might injure it again. They told me that was my problem).

With a family to support I was not in any position to argue, so with cane in hand I hobbled off to Peru, which turned out to be the greatest blessing of my life.

Lost City Of The Incas.

While I was there I was overcome by a strong urge to visit Machu Picchu, the sacred "Lost City" of the great Inca empire that ruled much of South America for more than 500 years. It actually sits above the clouds high in the Andes Mountains, completely unknown to modern civilization until it was rediscovered in 1911. A masterpiece of engineering, it is built of huge boulders (some weighing hundreds, even thousands) of tons, cut and set in place like the precision jewels of a fine watch.

A Little Help From Their U.F.O. Friends?

Just how the Incas did it is a mystery that still baffles engineers today. Some learned experts even claim they had a little help from their friends. If you have read Von Daniken's best selling book, "Chariot Of The Gods", you have an idea who these friends were. His theory (and it fits right in with Inca legend) is that many of the fantastic Inca constructions were actually developed for use by U.F.O.s.

I made a little discovery of my own.

In my tour of Machu Picchu I got my cane stuck between two rocks near the "Altar of The Sun God". As I freed my cane a small object came out with it. When I examined it, I got the shock of my life. It was perfectly round with a jagged edge and on one side was carved the features of a face. It was obviously an amulet of The Sun God himself.

It's against the law to pirate historical treasures out of Peru.

Not wanting to risk any trouble I kept my find a secret until I got back to the States. And since my little treasure was not a precious stone in the ordinary sense, like the great gems that fill the museums in Lima, I kept it as a sort of good luck charm.

More precious than emeralds.

To me this simple amulet has a power more precious than any emerald or ruby. I don't understand how it works any more than I understand any of the mysteries of Machu Picchu. All I really know is that from the moment I first held it in my hand, my life started changing dramatically for the better.

One miracle after another.

It's been less than four years since I made my little discovery. And in that time my fortunes have turned upward like a shooting star. Today I'm no longer worried about being fired. I own a controlling interest in a multi-million dollar organization that provides me and my family with all the luxuries we'll ever need. I live in a home valued at \$150,000 +, drive a \$15,000 car, work as little or as much as I feel like, and have the time and money to go anywhere I please. Last year it was Europe and the Caribbean. Maybe next year I'll take the whole family to Machu Picchu. (It's the least I can do for all the good luck I found there).



right away. You have 365 days in which to prove it works. Or it costs you absolutely nothing!

Share my good fortune with others.

In the last few years I've told many of my friends about the power of the Sun God amulet I found. And in every instance they wished they had something to give them the same amazing luck they'd seen me enjoy. Then one day I decided to have a jewelry company make some exact copies of my amazing amulet to give my friends for gifts. I didn't think any more of it... until they all began asking me if they could buy some more amulets to give their friends and relatives. And then they all told me the most fantastic stories of how their luck had improved suddenly.

Everyone who's had one wouldn't be without one.

They all said they didn't believe in any kind of "magic" and weren't the least bit superstitious. And all that good luck was probably a fantastic coincidence, but they weren't taking any chances. Whatever it was about that little Sun God, they weren't sure, but they certainly weren't going to be without one. They were concerned that if they should lose theirs they'd be out of luck, since no store carries them. At this point I went back to the same jewelry company and gave them the exclusive contract to reproduce, right down to the last detail, a limited quantity of the same little Sun God amulets my friends have all worn with such success. (Each faithfully copied from the original I found at Machu Picchu).

The Sun God has the proud handmade look of a genuine antique.

He stares at you with the wisdom of the ages and the appearance of very old silver. And though He is a God and not a Goddess - He is in no way a male chauvinist. He favors men and women equally. With His matching 23" chain, He looks just as great against a low-cut gown as He does a hairy chest.

© Copyright 1976 K-N-G

When you get your amulet, look into the Sun God's face until you can picture him with your eyes closed. Then press the amulet against your temple or forehead and make your wish. Wish for wealth, success, health, power, love, anything. And watch your dreams begin to come true

If you don't believe in the power of this little Inca Sun God, just order one and find out!

He is guaranteed for 365 days of good luck. After owning Him for an entire year, if you don't honestly believe in His fantastic power to improve your luck... just send Him back in good condition for a full money-back refund. No questions asked.

Who knows where His power comes from?

Maybe it's from the same supernatural Being some experts believe helped the Incas build Machu Picchu. And maybe it's all in our minds. Perhaps this particular design, this image, is made to work like a key. When it touches our consciousness it simply unlocks a power which we all possess but are unaware of. Just because we don't yet understand it doesn't mean it doesn't work. It has for me and a lot of my friends. I believe it will for you as well.

Sincerely, *Robert L. McCarthy*

A sworn statement by Mr. McCarthy's Accountant.

I hereby certify that Mr. McCarthy does indeed own a multi-million dollar business. Which he has built up from virtually nothing in less than three years. It's one of the most startling success stories I've ever witnessed.

James Reilly
— James Reilly
Accountant



This is me amidst the Llamas at Machu Picchu. The sacred lost city of the Incas. High in the Andes Mountains of Peru. This picture was taken January 25, 1973, the day I found the little Inca Sun God amulet. (Just look at the size of those boulders behind me). Remember, the average Inca was under five feet tall. And they didn't have any horses, oxen, or other large beasts of burden. Now I ask you. Did they do it all by themselves? Or did they have a little help from the Sun God?

The sooner you mail this coupon, the sooner the Sun God can start bringing you good luck every day. But you'd better hurry - this is a limited edition. And not sold anywhere else!

Robert L. McCarthy, Dept. RS-2517
380 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017

quantity of the limited edition authentic Inca Sun God amulets. The exact same design as the one Mr. McCarthy found at Machu Picchu and brought him such tremendous luck.

I understand that I may keep it for 365 days, at your risk. Money back if not 100% delighted with my new found luck. On that basis, here is \$9.95 (plus 75¢ for postage and handling. Cash, check or money order. Payable to Robert L. McCarthy. Bring your friends good luck, too. Order 2 for \$19.90 (And we'll pay postage and handling; so you save \$1.50). Better order now. This is a limited edition, first come, first serve.

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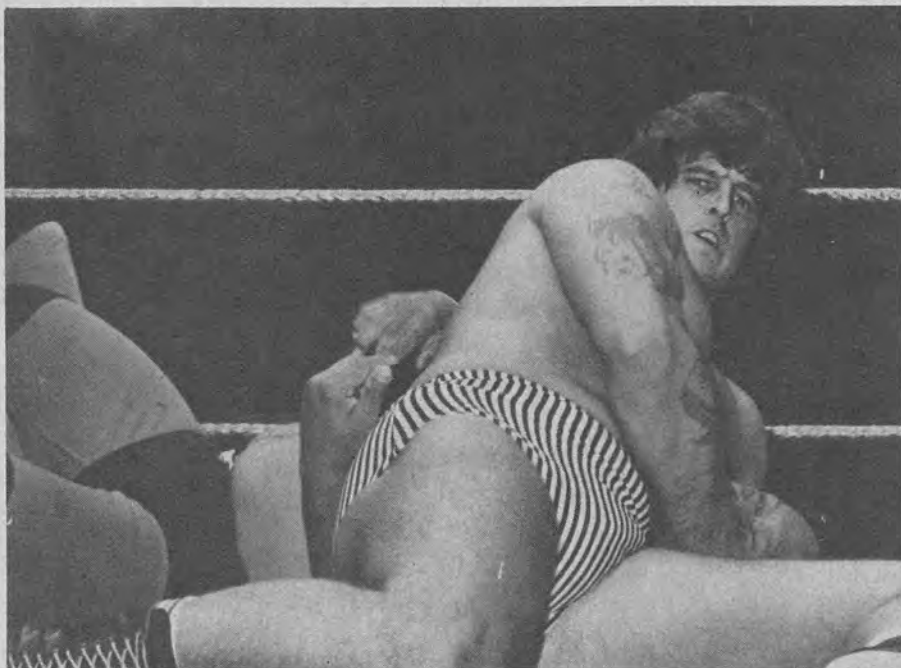
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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

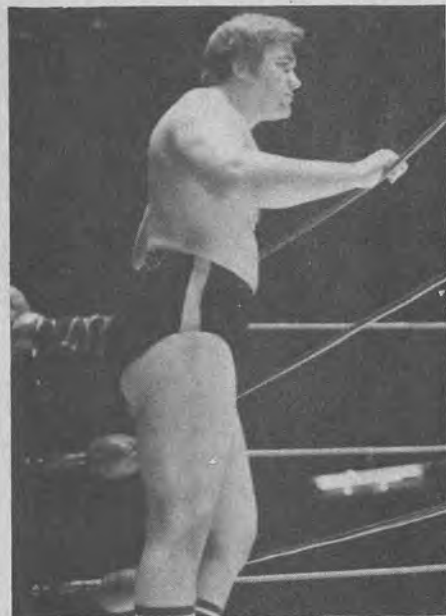


When he was appearing on the east coast Tony Garea had a large legion of fans. He's now wrestling in California where he has an equally large army of rooters. But fans in the east are insisting Tony come back their way. Tony can't. As much as he'd like to, the popular New Zealander is tied up with many commitments.

- Q:** Who were Bruiser and Crusher's toughest opponents?—Richard Long, Indianapolis, Indiana
- A:** "I'd say Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkle," Crusher said. Bruiser disagrees and claims "The Blackjacks gave us the most trouble!"
- Q:** Will Dusty Rhodes ever team with

Rocky Johnson?—Randy Smith, Atlanta, Georgia

- A:** Dusty and Rocky have teamed many times and plan to do so again in the near future.
- Q:** How is Tony Garea doing on the west coast. Also when does he plan to return east?—J.E. Strollo, Glenolden, Pennsylvania



Larry Zbyszko is another popular eastern star now on the west coast. He's doing sensational there and is planning a long stay out west.

- A:** Tony's doing great and hopes to win the United States title during his stay there. As for returning east, Tony says, "I'd love to return but I'm contracted elsewhere for the next few months."
- Q:** Has Mr. Wrestling II ever wrestled Stan Stasiak?—Janice Sodaitis, Merrick, New York
- A:** The two have clashed several times and each match was a vicious pier-six brawl. The masked man now claims, "My matches against Stasiak took their toll on him. He's left the south because he was a coward and refused to take a final Texas Death match against me." Insiders say the masked man is telling the truth. Stasiak denies every word of it.
- Q:** What has become of Larry Zbyszko?—Michael Fanelli, Providence, Rhode Island
- A:** Larry is grappling in California as of this writing.
- Q:** Ask Mil Mascaras what kind of strategy he would use against Andre the Giant—Pat Anione, Iselin, New Jersey
- A:** "Flying tactics," Mil said. "I'd get him off his feet and then lock him in holds to weaken him so I could eventually pin him."
- Q:** Why hasn't Blackjack Mulligan wrestled Terry Funk for the NWA title?—Alan Propst, Bridgewater, Virginia
- A:** "The NWA is too damn scared to give me a shot!" blasts Mulligan.

(Continued on page 58)

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CORRESPONDENTS Reports

NEW YORK NEWS
By Michael Montalbano

BRUISER BRODIE CAME with-
in a foot of taking Bruno Sam-
martino's WWF title. Only the ring-
side judges in New York's Garden
saved the champion from losing the
belt.

After a furious battle which saw
both men brawl rather than wrestle
scientifically, Bruno was captured near
the corner and snared in a pin position
by Brodie. The referee even counted
Bruno out and designated Brodie the
winner! The crowd was silent as Brodie
paraded around the ring with the belt.

However, the referee soon signaled
Bruiser was not the champion. The
ringside judges observed Brodie
illegally using his feet against the rope
for leverage. This disqualified the
challenger and Sammartino retained
his title.

VIRGINIA WRESTLING By Billy Baird

Richmond fans screamed their
delight as Dusty Rhodes won the Mid-
Atlantic championship, unseating
hated Ric Flair. The fans left without
knowing the decision would be
reversed when the commissioners
studied films of the match.

It was a furious brawl; even the
referee suffered an injury. When Dusty
had Flair pinned to the mat, referee
Tommy Young was helpless to count
him out. All the official could do was
clutch his knee and writhe in pain.

Wahoo McDaniel rushed in, spoke
to the referee, and Flair was counted
out. The fans left thinking Dusty was
champion; the films showed Wahoo
interfered during the count.

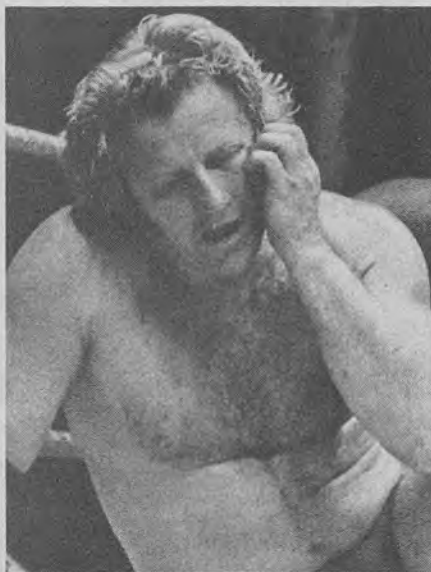
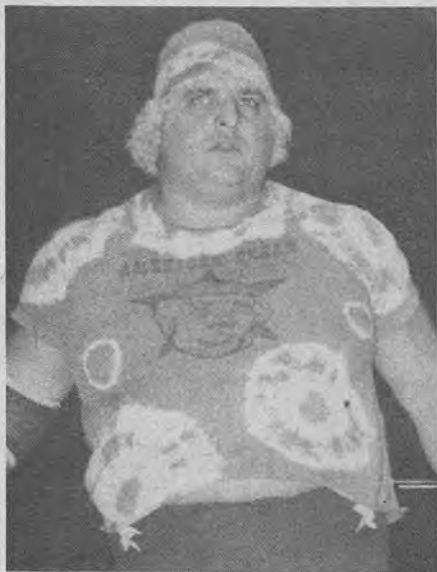
WISCONSIN MAYHEM By George Lentz

The Milwaukee arena saw one of the
great six-man tag team matches of all
time when Nick Bockwinkel, Black-
jack Lanza, and Bobby Duncum
squared off against Larry Heenig,
Chief Peter Maivia, and Crusher.

Maivia won the first fall for his team
by capturing Lanza in a backbreaker.
A few minutes later, Lanza evened
things up by defeating Hennig.

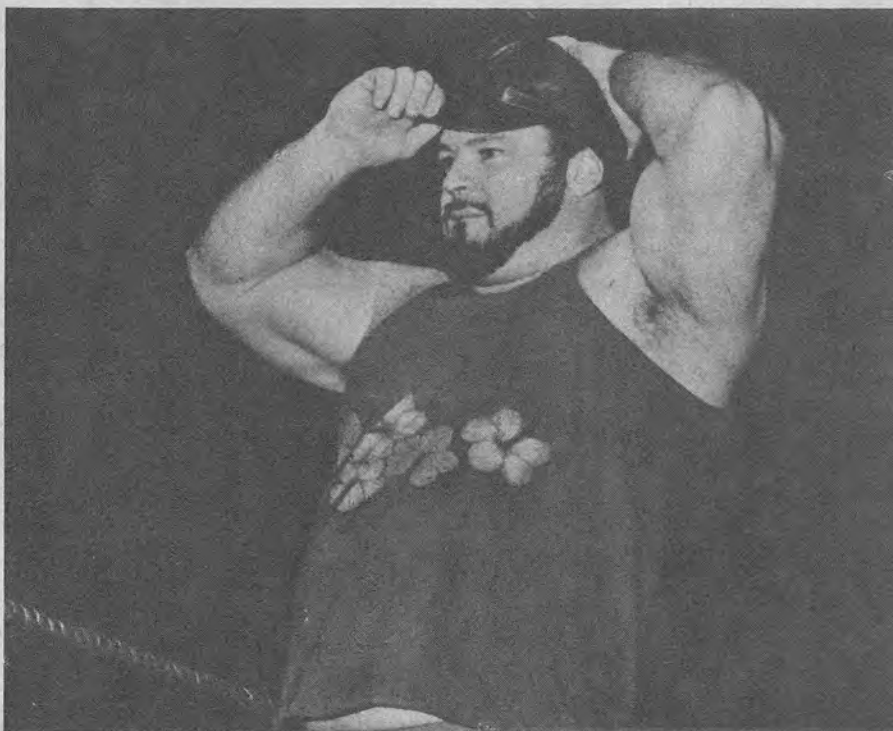
That left Crusher and Bockwinkel to
decide the match. The crowd screamed
its support for local hero, Crusher, and
he rewarded their faith. Bockwinkel
was bested by Crusher and the match
was over.

The victors received a standing
ovation.

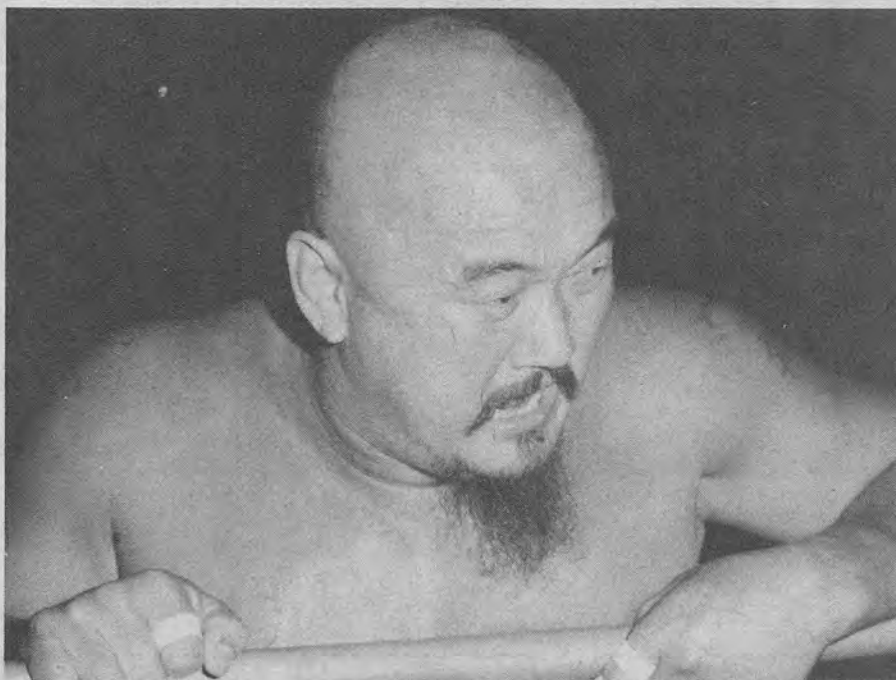


Above left: Dusty Rhodes prepares to take the mid-Atlantic title away from Ric Flair. Dusty was actually awarded the belt but it was taken away from him after an examination of the match films. Above right: Nick Bockwinkel is stunned after being bested by Crusher in a six-man tag team match. Below: Bruno Sammartino is stretched out on the canvas, fearing he's lost his championship to Bruiser Brodie. However, the ring judges said Brodie cheated.





Above: Ivan Putski prepares himself to join Bruno Sammartino in trying to defeat The Executioners, WWWF tag team champions. Ivan and Bruno battered the champs but failed to win the title: Below: Mr. Fugi had only to eliminate Alberto Madrill to win the battle royal in Sacramento. Instead, Madrill went on to win the battle.



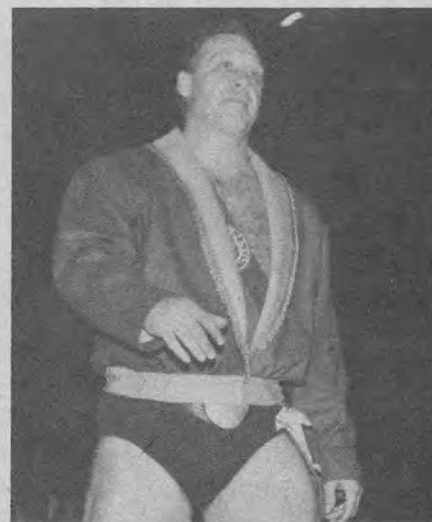
CONNECTICUT HAPPENING By Jeffrey Baer

The Veterans Memorial Coliseum in New Haven saw Ivan Putski and Bruno Sammartino victorious over The Executioners, although the masked pair kept their WWWF tag team title.

All hope that The Executioners would be unseated this night was

destroyed when the referee was forced to disqualify both teams during the first fall. With the title out of reach, Sammartino and Putski concentrated on battering their foes.

It was Putski's brains rather than brawn which brought The Executioner's downfall. Ivan suckered The Executioners into headbutting each other! After that, it was simple for Sammartino to win the match though not the title.



Carlos Rocha knows he'll have it tough in his match against Sheik but shows no fear of his most cruelly fearsome opponent.

ONTARIO GRAPPLING By Keith Gibbs

A sharp-eyed referee saved Carlos Rocha from being slashed to pieces by Sheik at the Toronto Garden.

Rocha was making it rough for the hated Arab from the opening moments. Carlos, the Portugese champion, had reduced Sheik to a bloody pulp within 10 minutes. As usually happens when Sheik gets the short end, Abdullah Farouk, his interfering manager, tried to come to the rescue.

Farouk attempted to pass a plastic knife to his battered grappler, but the referee was too quick for him. Spotting the foreign object, the referee quickly disqualified Sheik. One can only shudder at Rocha's fate if Sheik was allowed to slice away!

CALIFORNIA NEWS By Mark Pimentel

The wild Sacramento battle royal, pitting 14 men in a fight to the finish, thrilled a packed house in the Memorial auditorium.

Pedro Morales, Tony Garea, Pat Patterson, and Haystacks Calhoun were among those eliminated in furious, bloody action. The last two men in the ring were Mr. Fugi and Alberto Madrill. As might be expected, Fugi tried to win by throwing salt in Alberto's face. Madrill also expected the maneuver and leaped out of the way. Alberto then came back and defeated Fugi for the \$12,000 prize.

The crowd showed its appreciation of Alberto at the top of their lungs! □

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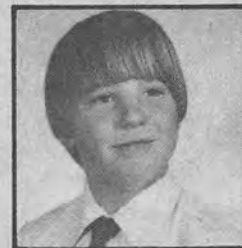
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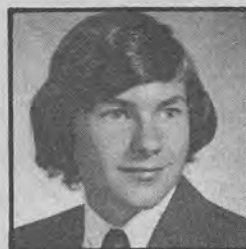
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guys. Anyone for PP's.



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Anyone for PP's.



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Girls for PP's.



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Mascara his
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guys. Anyone for PP's.



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McDaniel his favorite.
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Likes fishing.
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McGinnis her favorite.
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favorite. Likes
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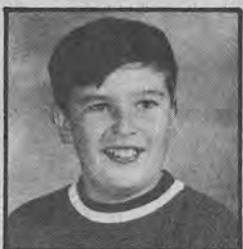
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guys. Boys for PP's.



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guys. Anyone for PP's.



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Likes good guys.
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Enjoys sports. Billy
Graham his favorite.
Likes bad guys. Girls
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Likes sports. Ric
Flair her favorite.
Likes good and bad
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KEVIN LEAHY (10)
25 Bridge Street
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Likes swimming. Bruno
Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good guys.
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Canada
Likes hockey.
Jean Ferre his
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good and bad guys.
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Rides horses. Bruno
Sammartino her favorite.
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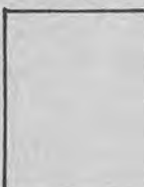
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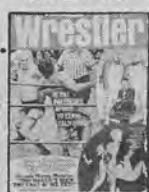
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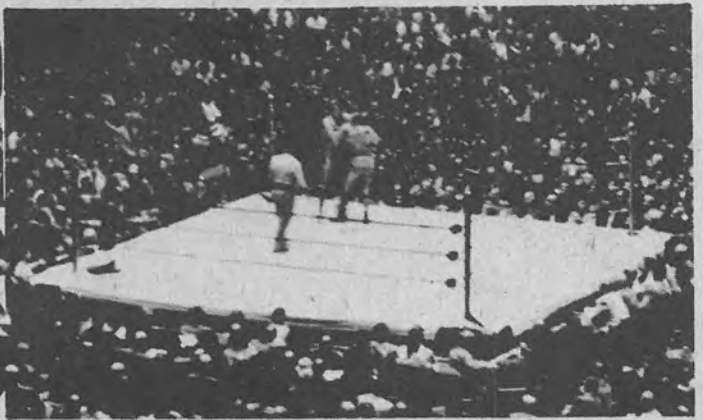
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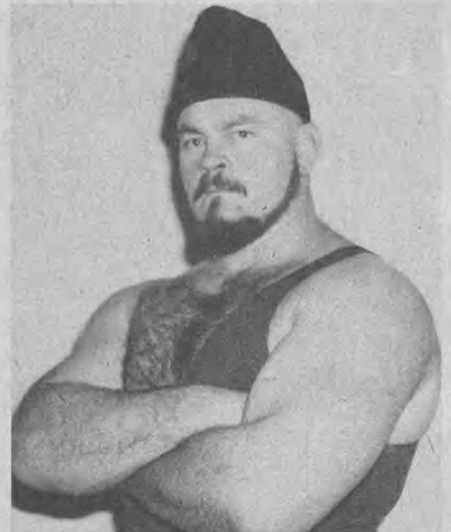
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YOUR LETTERS



Above: Dory Funk Jr. batters Jack Brisco, weakening Jack before his title match against Dory's brother, champion Terry Funk. Below: Stan Hansen gets psyched for a wild cage match.



Ivan Koloff (above) may have stalled Andre the Giant's try for a championship if Andre seeks revenge for a beating he suffered at the hands of Ivan.

BOTHERSOME BIG BROTHER

Terry Funk doesn't need Dory Funk Jr. to announce, "I'm My Brother's Policeman!" (*THE WRESTLER*/November 1976). Terry is doing okay on his own. If you ask me, stuff like that makes Dory look like he's trying to hog some of Terry's glory.

I've been a fan of the Funk family for years, admiring their many fine accomplishments. But Dory is being silly if he thinks Terry needs any help to keep the NWA title. The younger brother is doing fine on his own.

I think family unity is a great thing and the Funks are lucky to be so close. But Dory better let his brother battle on his own. If he interferes too much, Terry might have to teach him a lesson!

WINIFRED PUTNAM
Alvin, Tex.

KEEP TRYING

I and all my friends hope Andre the Giant keeps trying to win a championship title ("Andre's Title Hopes Get Crushed . . . By the Russian Bear" [*THE WRESTLER*/November 1976]). One bad setback shouldn't destroy everything.

We hope Andre doesn't bother trying to get revenge against Koloff. It only takes time from what he should be doing—going after the champions!

Andre should be champion. He shouldn't have any other thoughts!

ORSON TOLAND
Waterville, Maine

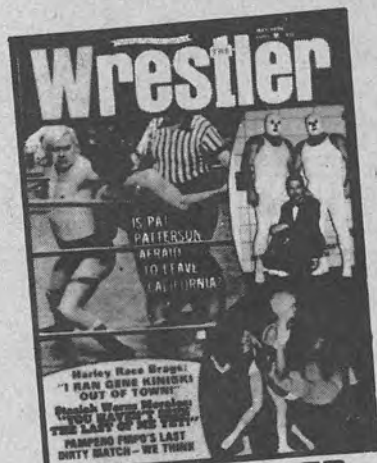
BRAVO BRUNO!

Every person who loves wrestling rejoiced in Bruno Sammartino's great cage match victory over Stan Hansen ("The Incredible Sammartino Is Victorious Again" [*THE WRESTLER*/November 1976]). It proves once again Sammartino is the best around.

Stan Hansen has had his day as the
(Continued on page 59)

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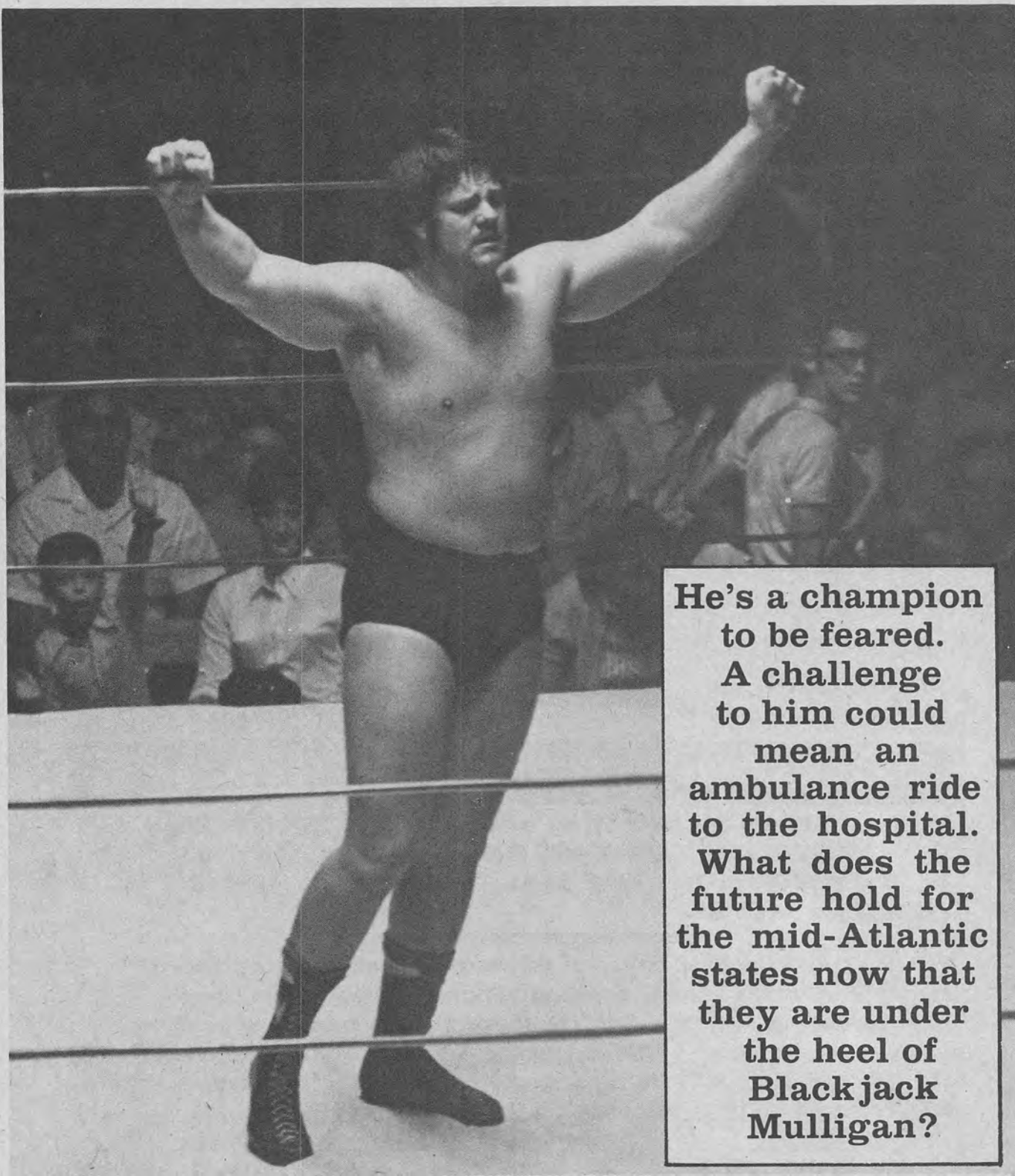
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**He's a champion
to be feared.
A challenge
to him could
mean an
ambulance ride
to the hospital.
What does the
future hold for
the mid-Atlantic
states now that
they are under
the heel of
Blackjack
Mulligan?**

THOUGH THE TITLE belt is being waved in the air by champion Blackjack Mulligan, the fans don't see him. Their eyes are glued to the bloody victim lying senseless on the mat.

It's a common occurrence when Mulligan wrestles. His reign of terror is unequalled in the mid-Atlantic states. Never has one man tortured so many in defending a title. Some people say he doesn't defend it, he humiliates it.

As might be expected, a man who cares that little about the rules cares even less about criticism. All that matters is the belt encircling his waist. How it got there and why it stays there is of no importance. If a few challengers are deprived of a living due to injuries, it's a risk they take.

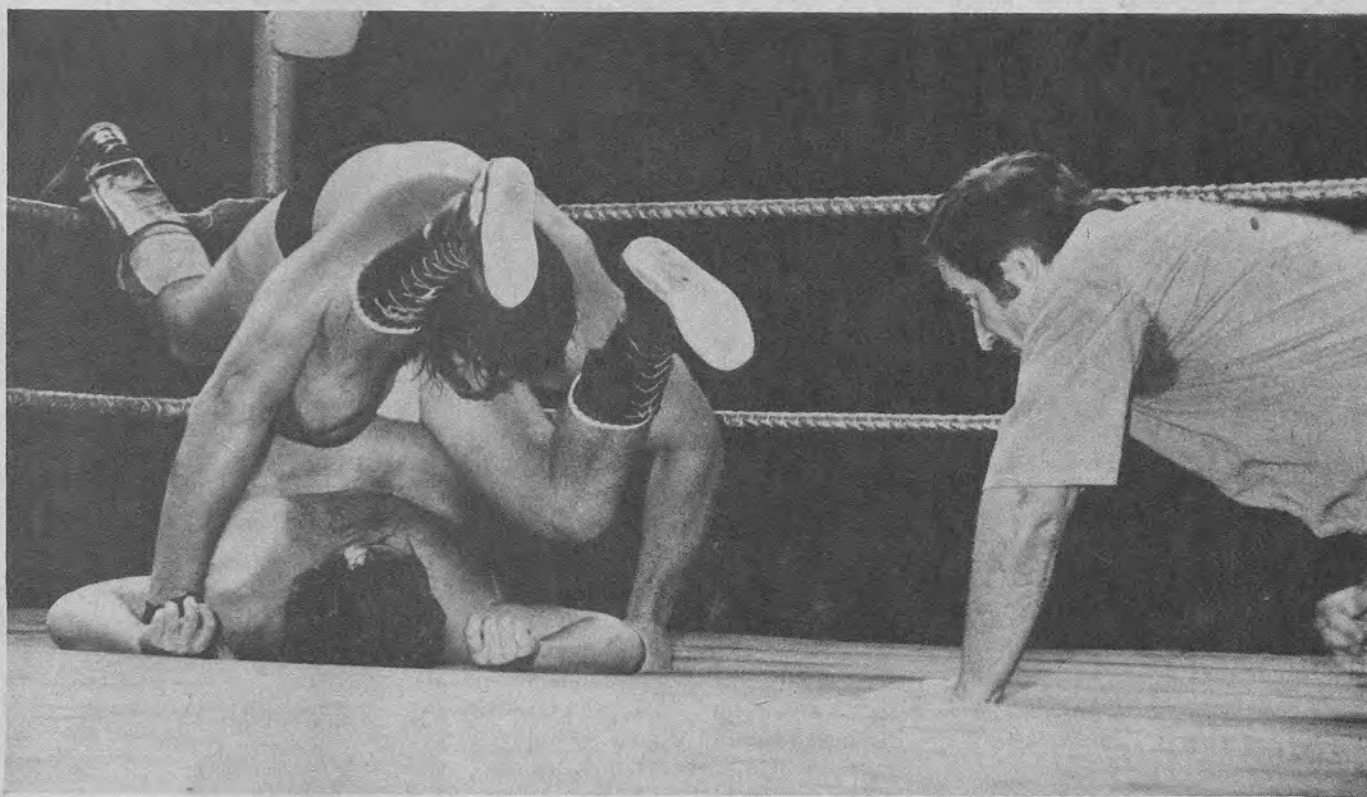
"No one forces someone to wrestle for my title," states the mid-Atlantic champion. "When they walk into the arena, they know what to expect. After

all, my reputation precedes me."

It's a reputation built on the broken bodies of opponents injured by illegal tactics.

"A tactic is illegal," Mulligan says with a smirk, "only when the referee catches me doing it. If the referee, a man trained to know the rulebook, doesn't see anything wrong, then how can you say I cheat? I think you're slandering the referees in the mid-Atlantic area. Aren't you ashamed of

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN: WRESTLING'S TYRANT CHAMPION



Just one of the tricks Mulligan uses to beat opponents. The referee can't see that Mulligan's using the ropes for leverage and he's going to count his opponent out. It's tricks like this that helped win the U.S. title for Mulligan. He defends it with cruelty and savage tactics.

yourself? Referees are honorable men."

Yet how does he account for so many crippled foes condemning his tactics as illegal, not to mention the films which clearly show him violating the rules?

"The films are wrong," Mulligan contends, "the camera angles are deceiving. They only look like illegal tactics. Actually they're all legitimate.

"As for my opponents' complaints,

what can you expect from losers? They know they can't win a title in the arena, so they try to become champion in the magazine. Their stupid droolings are laughable. Just once I'd like to see those clowns admit I'm better than them, instead of bawling that I cheated. They not only lack skill, they're gutless! I don't want to waste any more words on them!"

In fact, it's not like Mulligan to waste words at all. He rarely sits still

for an extended interview, and he never defends himself. Yet, he's recently made himself available for interviews, often with the intent of justifying himself. The strange behavior started a couple of months after he won the mid-Atlantic title.

Looking over Mulligan's recent statements, a pattern begins to emerge. Blackjack has gone under the spell of being champion, taking pride in his

(Continued on page 52)

ONE MAN NOW stands as Emperor of Wrestling. All fear Emperor Bobby Heenan!

Heenan has done what every manager dreams of doing. He is the brains behind the AWA single championship and the AWA tag team title. The belts belong to him, or at least to those who follow his orders. Everyone who loves the sport must be afraid a terrible genius has been born.

Joining Nick Bockwinkle, the AWA world champion, are Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum, newly-crowned AWA tag team kings. All are under the tutelage of Heenan—and don't think he lets them forget it!

"It's my genius that made them winners!" Bobby shouts at every opportunity. "Without me, they'd still be challengers without a prayer of winning. I brought down Verne Gagne; Bockwinkle only did my bidding. People thought Crusher and

Bruiser could never be beaten. A lot of morons laughed when I told them Lanza and Duncum would make Crusher and Bruiser crawl. No one's laughing now! All hail Heenan!

"I've heard the rumors people have been spreading about Bockwinkle and me," Heenan adds quickly, showing the crown rests upon an uneasy head. "I've heard them say Bockwinkle doesn't listen to me, that he's getting rid of me. Well, I want the world to know I've now proven where the brains behind this team lies. I control champions; champs don't control me! I don't want to see another lie in print about Bockwinkle getting rid of me. Without me, he's lost . . . and you can bet he knows it!

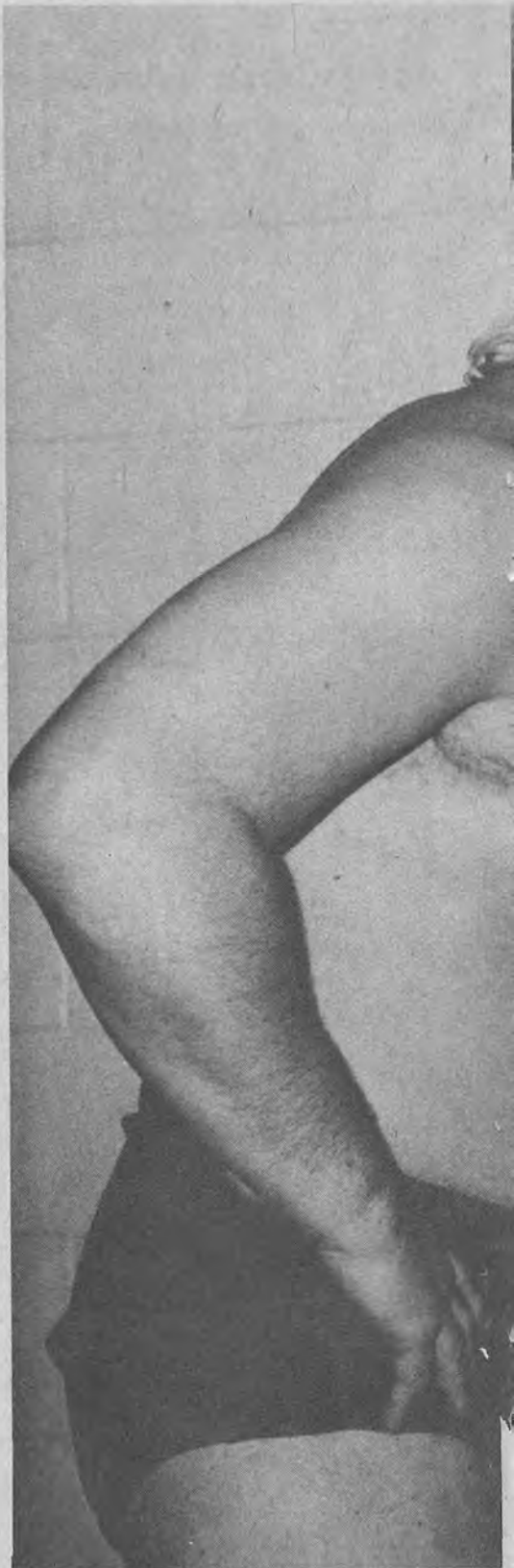
"But let's get back to my tag team champs," Heenan says, again changing moods with lightening speed. "Let's talk about the greatest combination in history, Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum. I'm so proud of those guys I could bust! They followed my instructions perfectly. It was probably the greatest match in history. Crusher and Bruiser fell! Crusher and Bruiser fell like a ton of bricks! And it was all because I told my men what to do. No doubt about it, Bobby Heenan is a genius."

Those who saw the match might substitute the word "villain" for "genius." It was an ugly brawl, bloody and savage. Rules were unknown in this confrontation. This was survival of the cruelest. The winners proved they were dirtier—not better—wrestlers.

Still, in the beginning of the match, it looked like the champions would retain their title. When the smoke cleared after the first fall, Duncum lay on the canvas and Crusher stood with his hand raised in victory. It's almost unheard of to unseat champions after losing the first fall. Added to that, Lanza had been hurt early in the brawl,

Giving last minute advice to Lanza and Duncum, Heenan feels they'll win the AWA title. He made the correct prediction.

The manager of the AWA world champion and the manager of the AWA tag team champions is the same man—Bobby Heenan. Can the sport survive this ruthless czar's crazed ambition? The world is full of questions as we enter the era of Bobby Heenan

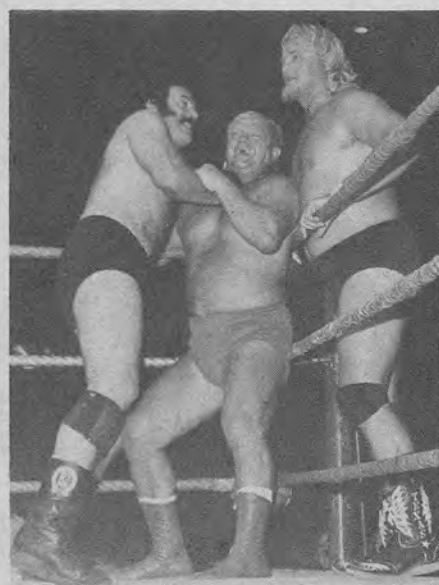
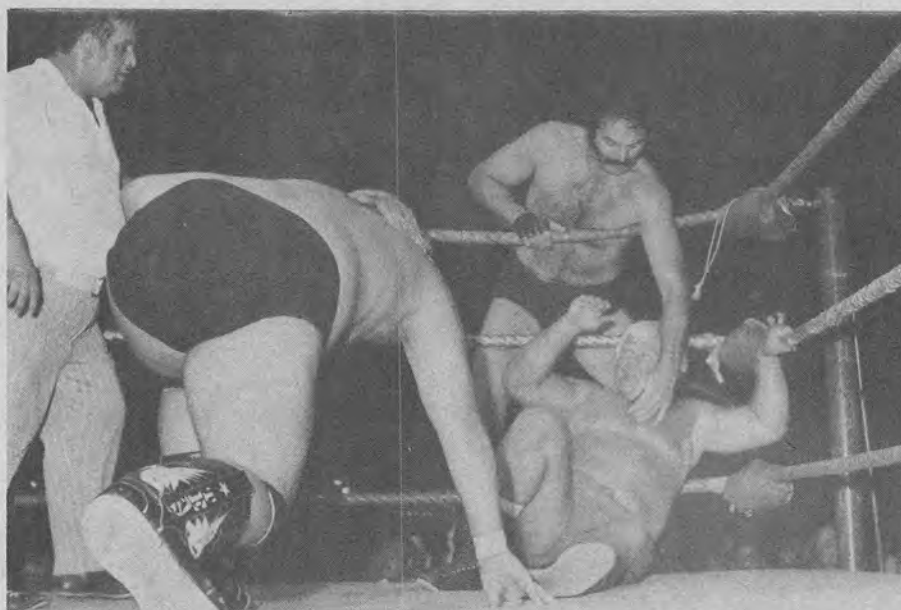


**NOW THE W
BELONGS TO B**



PHOTOS BY BOB SABRE

HOLE AWA BOBBY HEENAN



and no one knew what his condition was.

The question was soon answered. Lanza shook off the pain and went to war. Using the crudest tactics, maneuvers embarrassing to a streetfighter, Blackjack tied the match by forcing Crusher into a corner and letting Duncum join in the torturing. The match was tied up, but still the advantages lay with the champions. Only Heenan sensed victory for his duo.

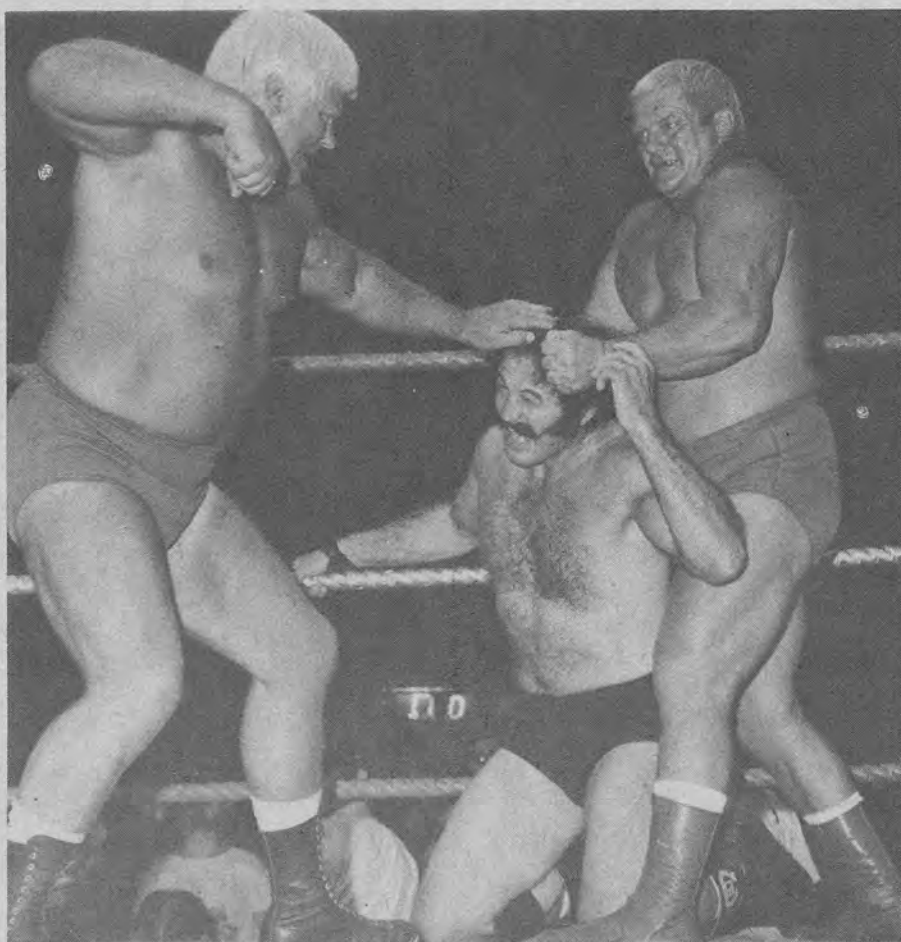
This time, Duncum proved he could be lower than a crazed jungle fighter. With Heenan shouting him on, Duncum used tactics that shocked the arena. When that didn't seem enough, the wily manager interfered without being spotted. Three against two, Crusher and Bruiser were overwhelmed. Finally, the champions fell and Lanza and Duncum became the new champions.

The ex-champs went after the man who did them in. Heenan felt their explosive wrath. Soon, the manager was as bloody as his champions. Brokenhearted and far from satisfied with their revenge, the defeated Crusher and Bruiser stalked back to the dressing room.

In the winners' dressing room, there was celebration through the blood. Between being stitched up, the trio shouted wildly and wallowed in mutual congratulations. When they were sutured up, the three celebrated into the wee hours of the next morning. If a good time could be had in Chicago, those rabblers were sure to be there. The city may need a few months to recover from their joy.

Significantly, Bockwinkle wasn't around to share the joy. He doesn't spend much time with Heenan anymore. Though this was a great

Bobby Duncum prepares to shoulder block Crusher as Blackjack Lanza holds Crusher (above left). They torture Bruiser (above right) as they near their biggest victory—but not without a fight from the team defending their title (below) in a last attempt to retain the belts.



night for men to whom he is closely associated in business, Nick wasn't around. Some claim he wasn't invited.

Heenan has been happier since winning the tag team championship than he has been for months. He's convinced this victory will prove to Bockwinkle that it's Bobby genius respon-

sible for winning championships, not Nick's ability. There were persistent rumors of Bockwinkle intending to go it alone, and perhaps doubt had been eating away at Heenan as to his own worth. Now, Bobby is sure he is a great manager. And he hopes Bockwinkle knows it, also. □

NOW RAY STEVENS IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER

CYNICS BELIEVE THAT no matter how bad things are, they're bound to get worse. Cynics take a lot of pleasure in Ray Stevens.

Most wrestling fans know Stevens is the epitome of a rulebreaking wrestler. Nothing stands between Ray and victory, including decency and mercy. His reputation has been forged in blood and hatred for over 20 years. Most people thought Stevens was as vile as a wrestler, or human being, could ever be.

Incredibly, the wrestling community has been underestimating Stevens. He's now crueler than ever! How can someone become crueler than cruellest? He gets a manager like Beau James.

Stevens has never had a manager who has devoted so much time to developing Stevens' skill for maiming. James seems to understand just what makes Stevens tick and how to make him tick more dangerously. To see Ray

For many years, Ray Stevens has been feared as the most cruelly dangerous man in wrestling. Even his opponents' nightmares never conjured up the vision of how savage Stevens would become under the guidance of his new manager, Beau James!

(Continued on page 54)

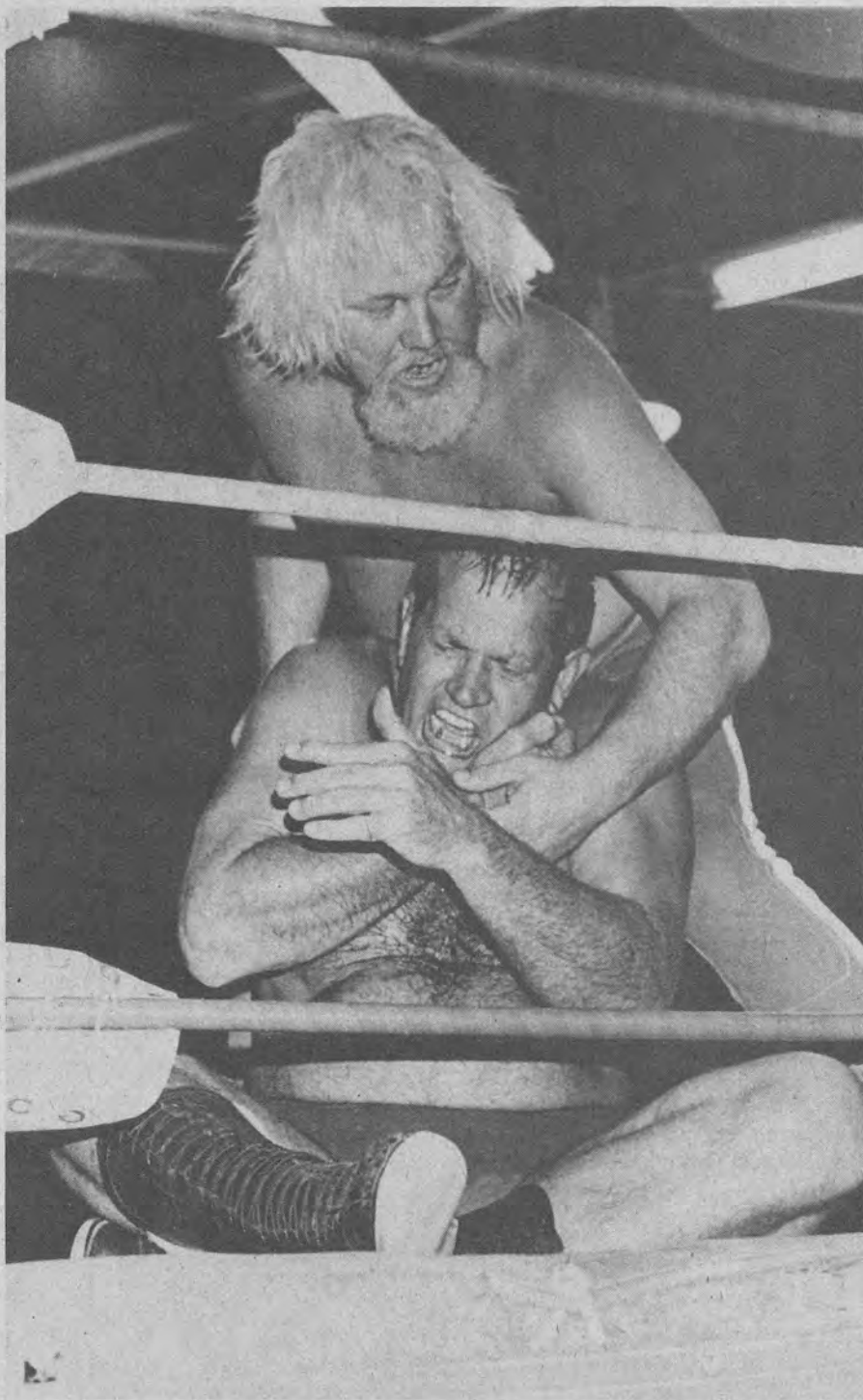


PITY THE MAN who has changed his evil ways, for he may suffer more than anyone else. The latest man to learn that painful lesson is Fritz Von Erich. The man who gave him the lesson was a man who was once his friend—Moondog Mayne.

Over the past several months, Fritz has been trying to forge a new reputation for himself. For many years he was known as being a ruthless competitor when wrestling. He would carelessly throw away any rulebook in favor of brawling. Many wrestlers suffered crippling injuries at the hands of Fritz Von Erich.

But suddenly, Fritz decided to change his ways, to make amends for the trail of mangled bodies he had left strewn over the course of years. He wanted to atone for what he had done. He publicly swore he would never again be the first to revert to illegal maneuvers during a match.

At first, many people did not believe him. It was simply too incredible. How could Fritz Von Erich, a man who seemed to take special glee in crippling opponents, suddenly stay within the rules? Most



HAS FRITZ VON ERICH'S PAST FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM?

Fritz Von Erich could do a lot better if he avoided any of his old friends from his rulebreaking days. Some of them — like Moondog Mayne — will always come back to haunt him about the way things used to be

people predicted Fritz would not even last a month without reverting to his old style.

But Von Erich proved these people wrong. He stayed strictly within the rules. He kept his promise to the fans. In turn, Fritz became a fan favorite, an experience he had never had before. Things were beginning to look good for Fritz Von Erich.

And then along came Moondog Mayne.

Moondog Mayne likes to cripple opponents with an unabashed glee. He delights in hearing bones snap. Cries of pain are like music to his ears.

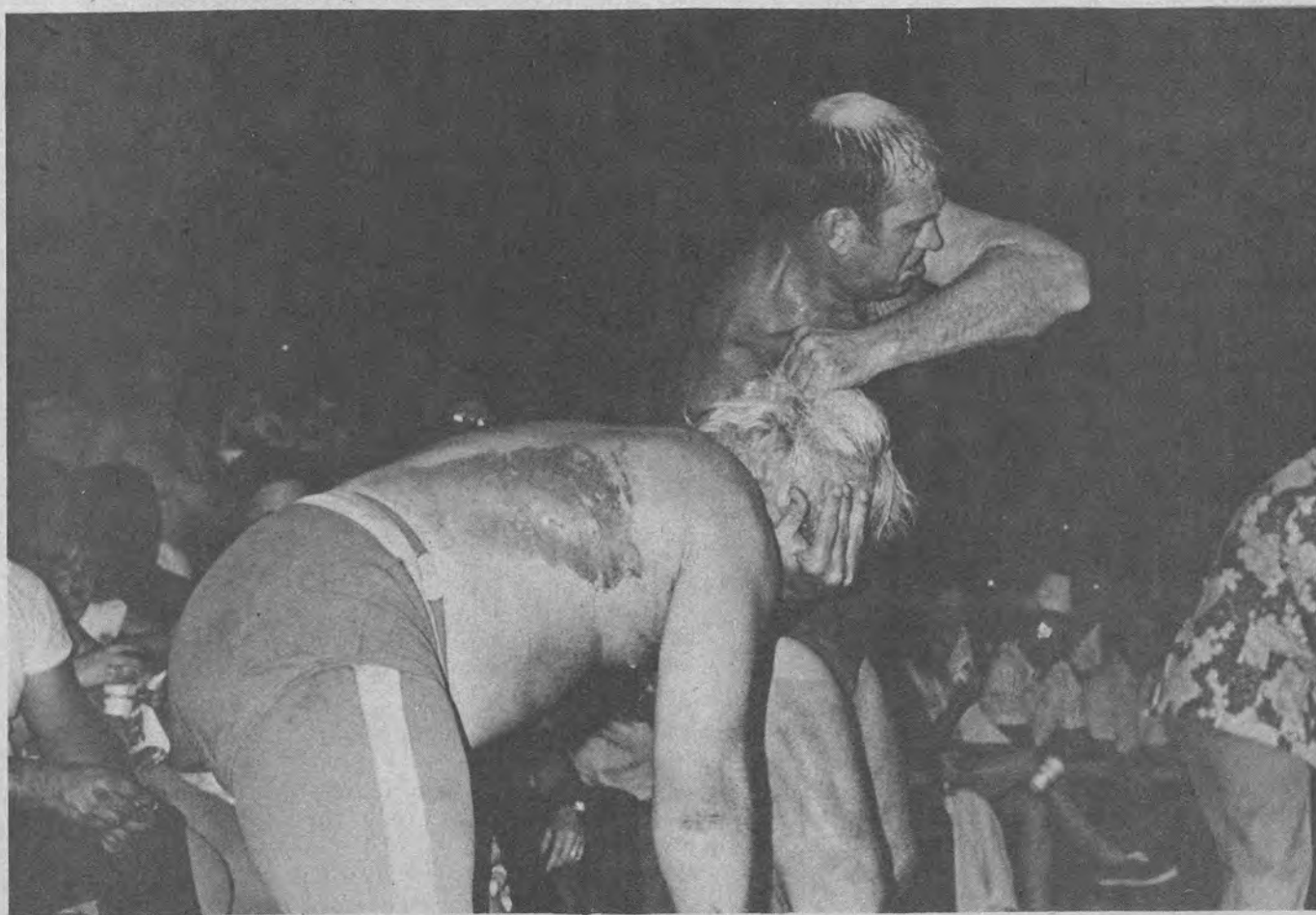
At one time, Moondog Mayne and Fritz Von Erich would have made perfect tag team partners for each other. Indeed, they had teamed on a few occasions. But that was in the past, before Fritz had mended his ways.

When Moondog Mayne came into town, the first thing he did was look up his old friend, Fritz Von Erich. He found Fritz at a wrestling arena. Von Erich, true to his word, was wrestling scientifically, although his opponent preferred to brawl. Moondog couldn't understand why

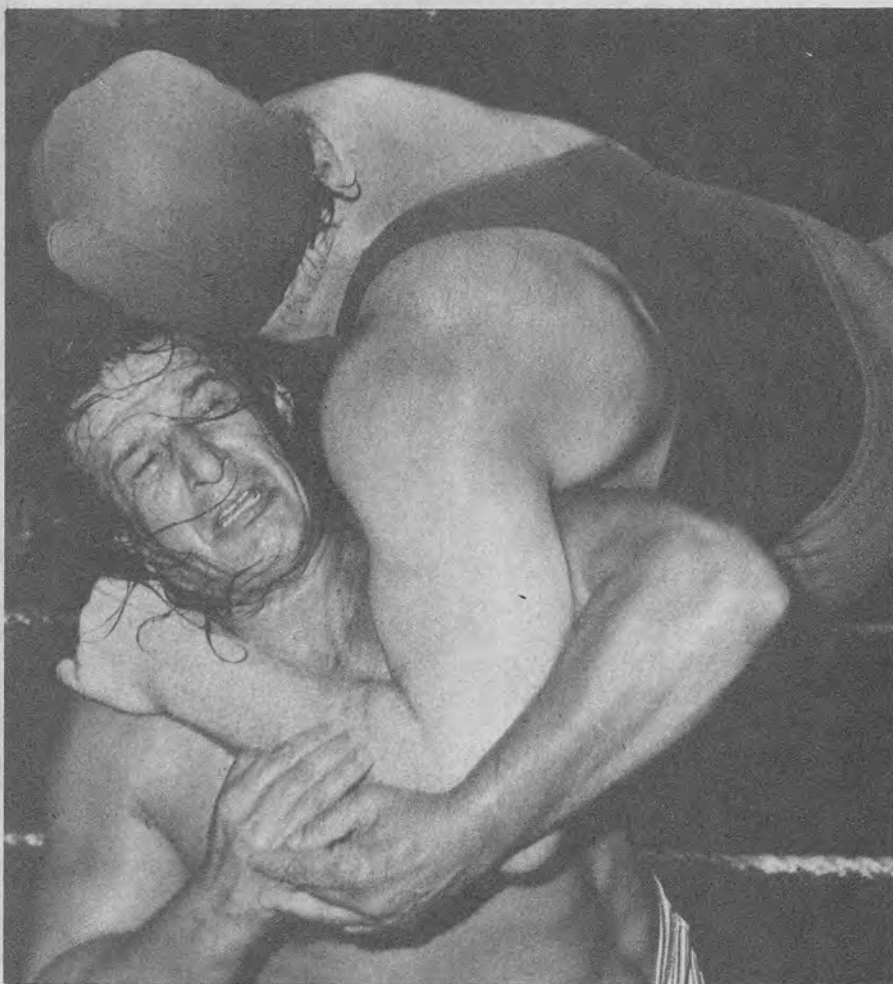
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Fritz is about to make a clean break (above) as Mayne reaches for the protection of the ropes. Von Erich stayed scientific throughout the match. But after the official decision, Mayne attacked him outside the ring and Fritz retaliated the only way he could (below).



Most people consider Billy White Wolf the best partner Chief Jay Strongbow has ever had. Yet, the facts show this partnership can only lead to the bloodiest tragedy!



WHY CHIEF STRONGBOW MUST DUMP BILLY WHITE WOLF AS HIS PARTNER

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW sat dejectedly in his dressing room, mulling over the fact that he and Billy White Wolf had once again failed to win the WWF tag team title from The Executioners. It had been a crushing defeat.

"We could have won it," Jay told his partner. "We really could have won the title tonight."

Silently, Chief Strongbow rose and got dressed. He did not say one word to his partner. There was nothing left for him to say. Another chance at

winning the title was gone. There was no way for Jay to retrieve that moment in history and correct what went wrong. It had already happened; nothing could be done to change the events of the past.

It was difficult for Strongbow to



Strongbow armdrags Executioner #1 (left opposite page). White Wolf uses his scientific skills (above and right) but refuses to brawl with the masked men. It's his lack of use as a roughhouse wrestler that can hurt the team of Strongbow and White Wolf.

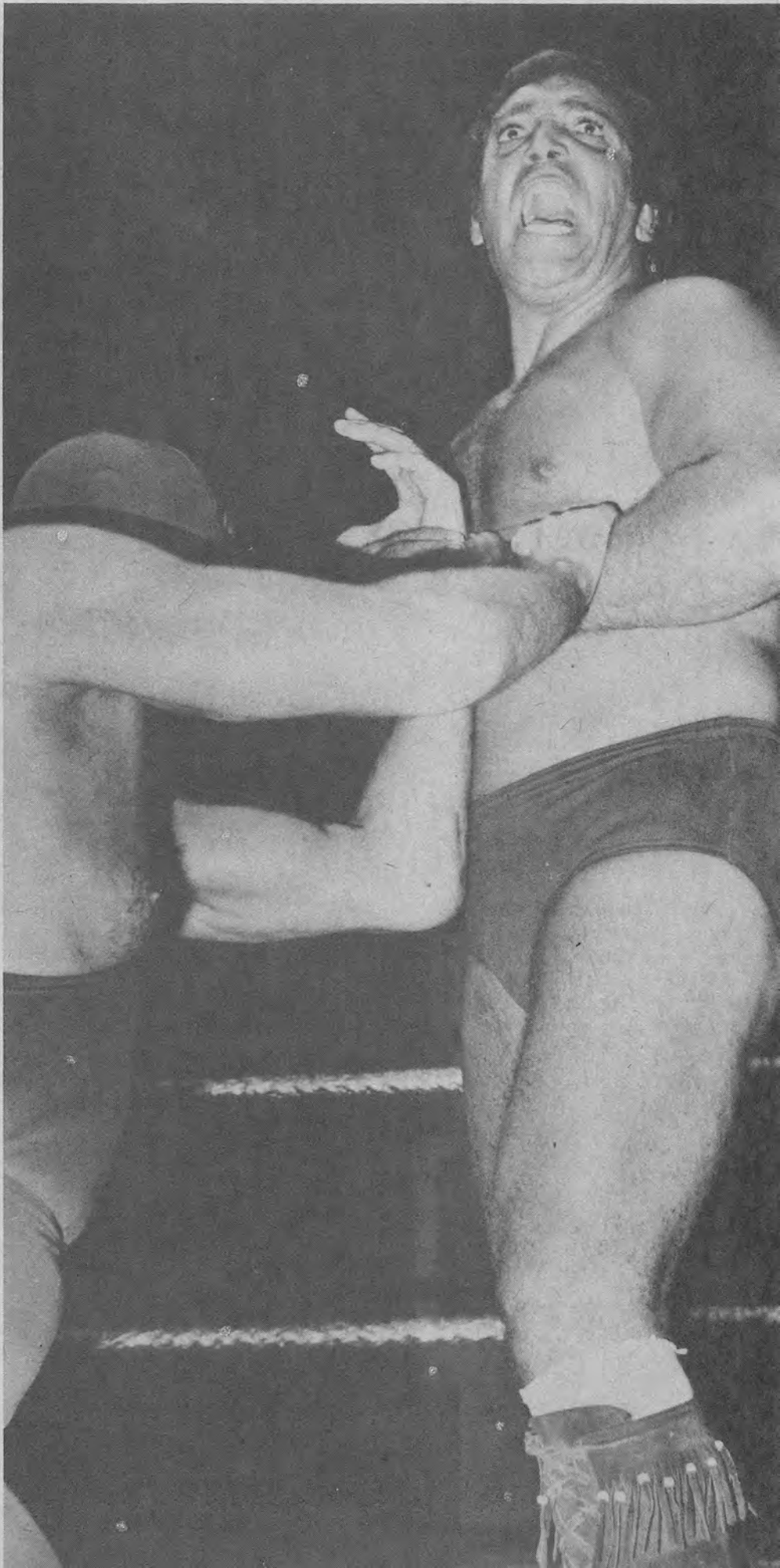
accept this particular loss. The Indians had come within close range of ending the reign of The Executioners. Victory was nearly theirs, and then the chance was gone. And as much as he hated to admit it, Jay knew exactly where the blame should be placed—with Billy White Wolf.

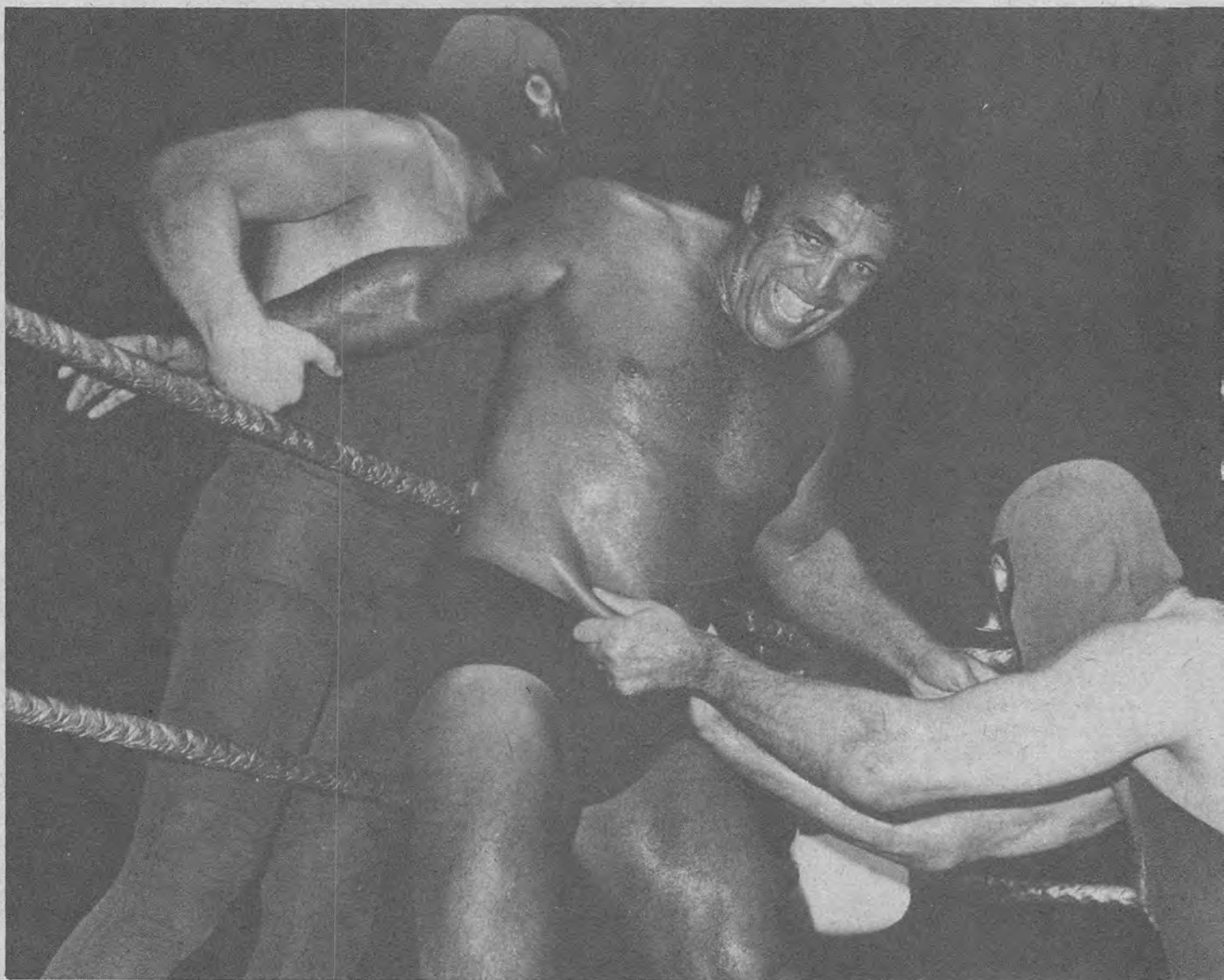
It cannot be said that Billy White Wolf is not an excellent wrestler. His knowledge of scientific tactics is phenomenal. But Billy cannot seem to do his best when faced with men who like to employ less-than-legal tactics. He does not wish to match these brawlers with their own type of tactics. And this, more than anything else, could lead to his downfall.

This is not to say a scientific wrestler should use illegal tactics when faced with a man who prefers to ignore the rules. However, a man should know what to do if science fails. Unfortunately, Billy White Wolf doesn't.

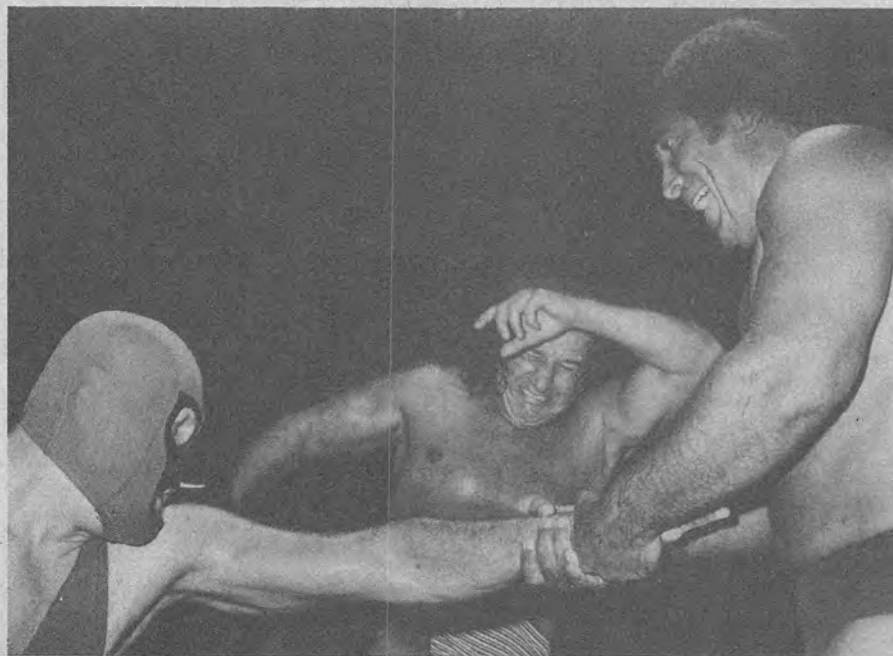
The Executioners are one of the most notorious tag teams to ever be seen in the WWWF. They begin a match by throwing out the rulebook, then proceed to take matters from there. Their reign as champions has been bloody and brutal. And only one team has been able to hold them at bay—the Indians.

However, while the Indians have been able to give The Executioners a





The Executioners gang up on White Wolf (above) and torture him with a clawhold. Billy holds Executioner #2 while Strongbow kicks the masked man's arm (below). Notice that Strongbow is doing the more aggressive wrestling and Billy just helps out.

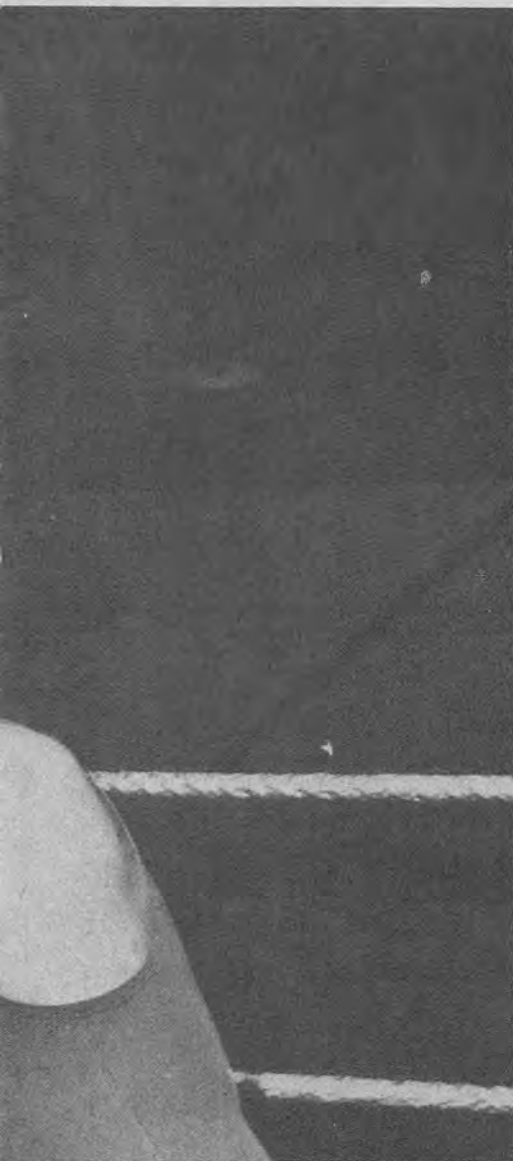


good deal of trouble, the popular team has not been able to win their belts. And this has caused a considerable amount of consternation for Chief Jay Strongbow.

In the past, Strongbow has teamed with several different wrestlers, but Billy White Wolf is the first Indian he has ever teamed with. A strange ethnic bond binds these two men together. But this bond, like Billy's refusal to brawl, could spell the undoing of the popular team.

Strongbow understands Billy's weaknesses, and therefore tries to compensate for them. However, there is just so much one tag team partner can do for the other. Sooner or later something has to give. In this particular situation, it could end up that Chief Jay Strongbow may have to end the partnership with Billy White Wolf.

So far, this partnership has been quite successful. They were more than able to beat back the competition in order to have a title shot at The Executioners. The fans in the WWWF



Billy still tries to use scientific tactics as The Executioner #1 gets ready to kick him low. Billy's friends hope he will let loose and give men like The Executioners their kind of vicious treatment.

area have gone wild about them. Many veteran wrestling observers have stated flatly that the Indians are the most popular tag team in history. So why do they have to split up?

From the beginning, it was quite obvious that one of the reasons this team was formed was to end the reign of The Executioners. It was thought that if any two men could beat the hated pair, Strongbow and White Wolf would be those men. That the two shared a similar heritage could only be to their advantage.

When the two men first started training together, they kept to a regimen of strictly scientific maneuvers. They were determined to defeat the Executioners, but they were going to do this on their own terms. They would not compromise wrestling science for the winning of the title.

After the first few encounters with the hated tag team, Strongbow began to realize that it would be almost impossible to stay strictly within the guidelines set down by the rulebook. If

he really did want to end the reign of the Executioners, he would have to compromise. After all, the Executioners never gave a second thought to cheating their way into keeping the title. It became clear to Strongbow that tougher action was needed.

But this insight was lost on Billy White Wolf. He refused to go along with the Chief's idea of brawling unless it was absolutely necessary. He truly believed the Indians could eventually win by staying strictly scientific.

Strongbow did not have the heart to disagree with his partner. He did not want to alienate this man he had worked so successfully with. He did not want to end the friendship that had grown between the two Indians. And so, a familiar pattern began to emerge: Strongbow and White Wolf would win their matches against The Executioners, but they would fail to win the title, due to The Executioners being disqualified. Every victory became a hollow one. Winning a match meant nothing if they could not win the title also. But still, White Wolf refused — or was unable — to compromise.

A while back, Chief Jay Strongbow left the WWWF to live on a ranch in Georgia. It was never clear exactly why

he left that area. However, when a call came for him to join with White Wolf in order to defeat The Executioners, Jay came back. He had heard about the destruction the hated tag team had done. He wanted to do something about it.

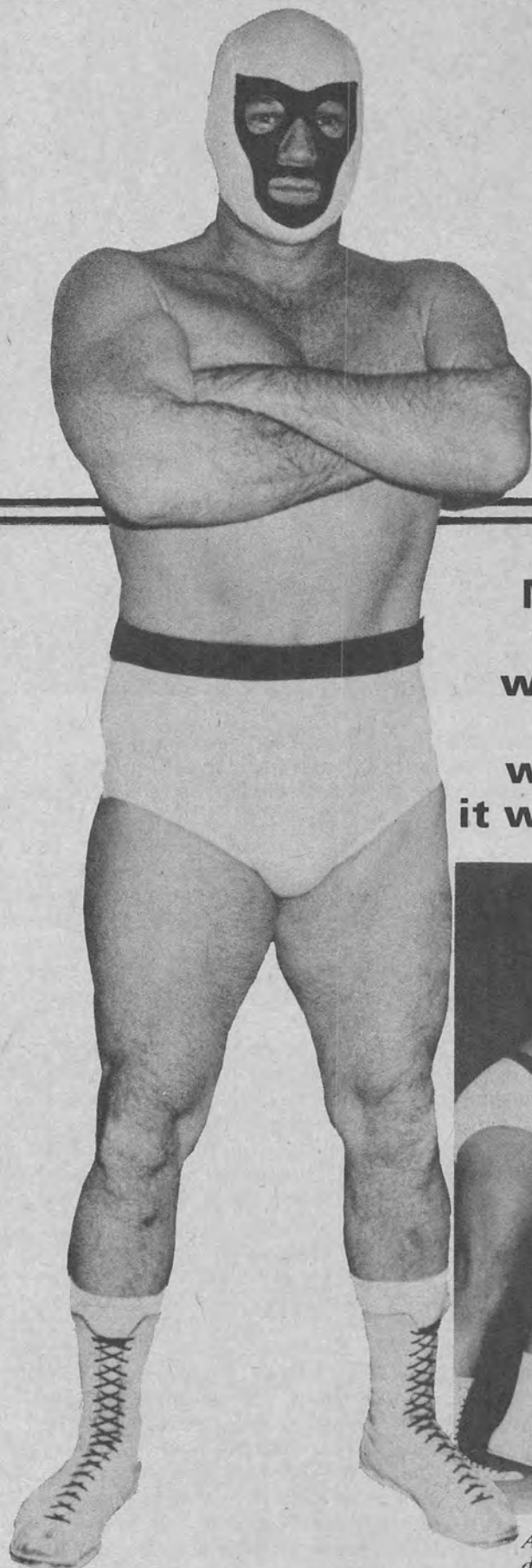
Therefore, it is hard for him to accept these hollow victories he and White Wolf have received over The Executioners. He is determined to put an end to their bloody careers. But in order to achieve that goal, he may have to take that one drastic step—dump White Wolf!

To take this step could have terrible repercussions for Chief Jay Strongbow. And the Chief realizes this.

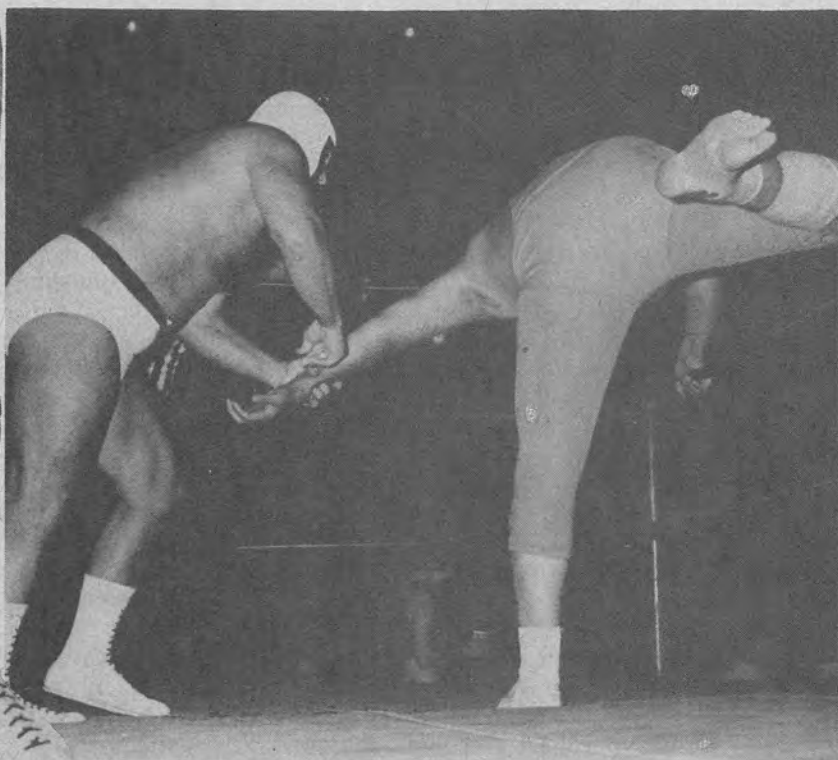
For the time being, at least, it seems Strongbow is not going to change partners. However, this situation could change as the Indians battle The Executioners in a few more matches. Jay's threshold of frustration may be exceeded. He may have to dump Billy White Wolf and find himself a new partner who is not above brawling when necessary.

The entire situation will have to be closely watched. It could explode at any time. □

Mr. Wrestling "WHY I" IN



Mr. Wrestling II is beloved by wrestling fans all over the world. In this exclusive story, he explains why he always wears a white mask, and what it will take to get him to unmask



PHOTOS BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

A sight that fans know justice stands for is the garb donned by Mr. Wrestling II (above left). He vows to rid the sport of all evil men like Yasa Fugi (above) who is known as a notorious rulebreaker. "There is no place in the sport for rulebreakers like him," notes the masked sensation.

II's Own Story M THE MAN WHITE"

THEY NO LONGER wonder who he is. They really don't care to know. It isn't important. For no matter who he is under that mask, the fans still respect and admire Mr. Wrestling II.

And why shouldn't they respect and admire him? Ever since he entered the world of wrestling, he has worked hard to earn their adoration. He has taken on all challengers, including the men the fans want most to see defeated. Mr. Wrestling II has done it all for them.

"And I always will," says Mr. Wrestling II. "I'm really happy the fans have taken me into their hearts. I really like them. They are what makes wrestling the greatest sport in the world.

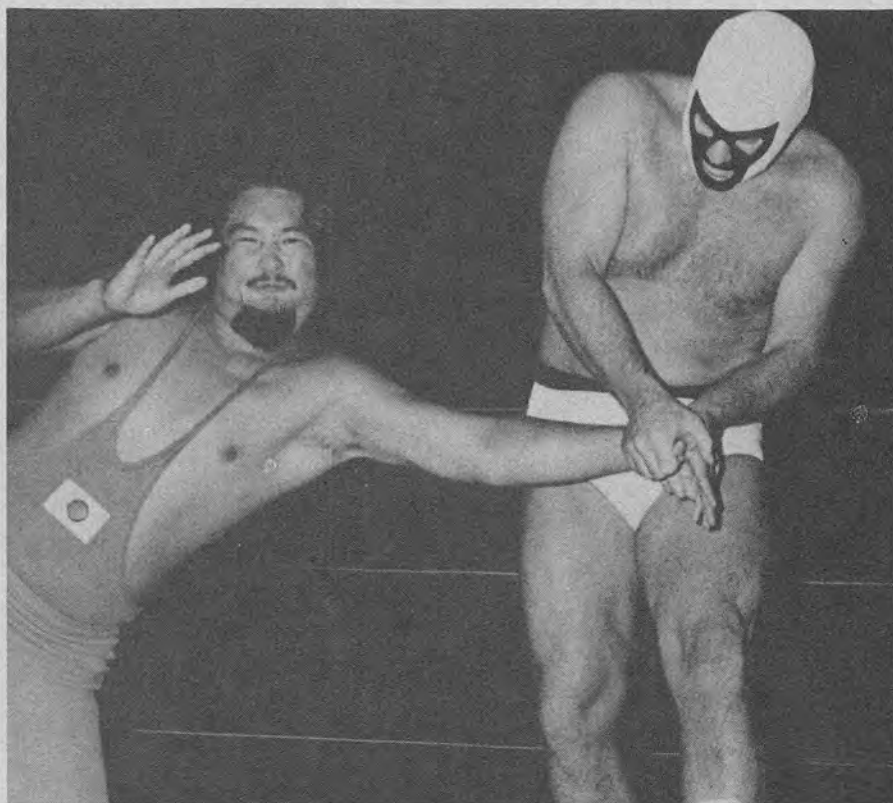
"I made a vow a few years back that I would never disappoint the fans. I have stuck to that promise."

There is, however, one question which plagues many wrestling fans—why does this man feel he must always wear a white mask?

"When I decided to don this mask," he explains, "I was trying to lose an identity. There was nothing in my past I was trying to hide. It's just that I had one goal in mind—to wipe out from wrestling those men who use despicable tactics. In order to achieve this goal, I felt I needed to have a degree of anonymity. Putting on a mask did this."

But is there a reason for always wearing white?

"I decided to adopt white as my color for a variety of reasons," the wrestler said. "To begin with, white stands for purity. There is a purity in my cause. So far, I think I have had



Fugi is made to suffer as Mr. Wrestling II applies a painful wristlock. "Making men like him suffer goes to further my cause," Wrestling II says. "I show them they can win by using tactics that are scientific and of good use to the sport."

an untainted career. White, for this reason alone, seemed to be a color reflective of my career.

"But white also means other things. White means courage, a virtue I hope I have exhibited to wrestling fans all over the world. Again my quest comes into play here. It would take, I knew, an enormous amount of courage to face those rulebreakers I was trying to

drive from wrestling. By garbing myself in all white, I found I had a psychological advantage. Being in white gave me added courage and self-confidence so that I could continue with my quest.

"And white, from a scientific point of view, means the absence of all color. In trying to become anonymous, I had to submerge any
(Continued on page 62)

Funk vs. Lawler—



Confident he's on the way to the NWA title (left) Jerry Lawler savagely chokes Funk. Terry is back in the driver's seat as he applies a painful split (above).

MUSCLES TREMBLING FROM exhaustion, Terry Funk slumped into a chair. His body lost its tension as legs and arms sprawled in all directions. Terry's chest heaved as he gasped for air. A puddle of sweat soon formed beneath him.

Reporters stood around him, though he didn't hear their questions. His mind was trying to sort through the jumble of images and sensations of what just happened into some understandable form. The only strength left in his body was being used by his fingers to clutch the NWA title belt. He had to make sure he still owned it. Funk had certainly earned it this evening.

TERRY FUNK'S TO AND HIS

PHOTOS BY
BILL APTER

When they realized their questions weren't going to be answered for a while, the reporters walked out to visit the foe who had almost taken Funk's belt. In his dressing room, Jerry Lawler lay on the training table. He was semi-conscious. The disappointment over losing would begin later; now there was only relief the battle was over.

Neither man would be ready to answer questions for at least an hour, so the gentlemen of the press wandered to a nearby bar to wait. Usually, when drinking after an assignment, reporters talk about anything but their work. Tonight, it was different. Tonight, the jaded press had become fans once again. The only topic of conversation was the match they had just witnessed.

"Terry Funk is great," one reporter said, shaking his head. "If you had told me three hours ago I'd ever say that, I'd have said you were crazy. I thought Funk was a lot of things, but not great. How can a guy who has spent 23 years watching wrestlers be so wrong?"

"I've always told you he was great," another chimed in, "but you didn't believe me. I knew when you stripped away the questionable tactics there was a base of wrestling greatness. There have been moments when it's shown through, when Funk executes better than anyone else in the sport. Tonight, though, he was better than I've ever seen him. Tonight, he proved himself a champion."

"And who would have thought he'd prove it against Lawler?" another asked, and everyone laughed. "Here is this animal named Lawler, a bully more than a wrestler. I'd have bet my wife and kids that guy didn't have a great match in him. Who'd have believed Lawler was really a wrestler disguised as a louse?"

"Do you believe that second fall?!" another announced to no one in particular. "I'm still not sure how Funk sur-

Since becoming NWA champion, Terry Funk has been called many things by many so-called experts—cheater, coward, and villain being among the more printable outbursts. However, after his recent title defense against Jerry Lawler, even the toughest critics must now call Terry Funk yet another name. But this time they are calling him "great!"



As the classic match continues, Jerry tries to pin Funk. But the sly champion will roll out and shortly lock Jerry in a vise-like headlock. The match will stand out for ever as an all time classic.

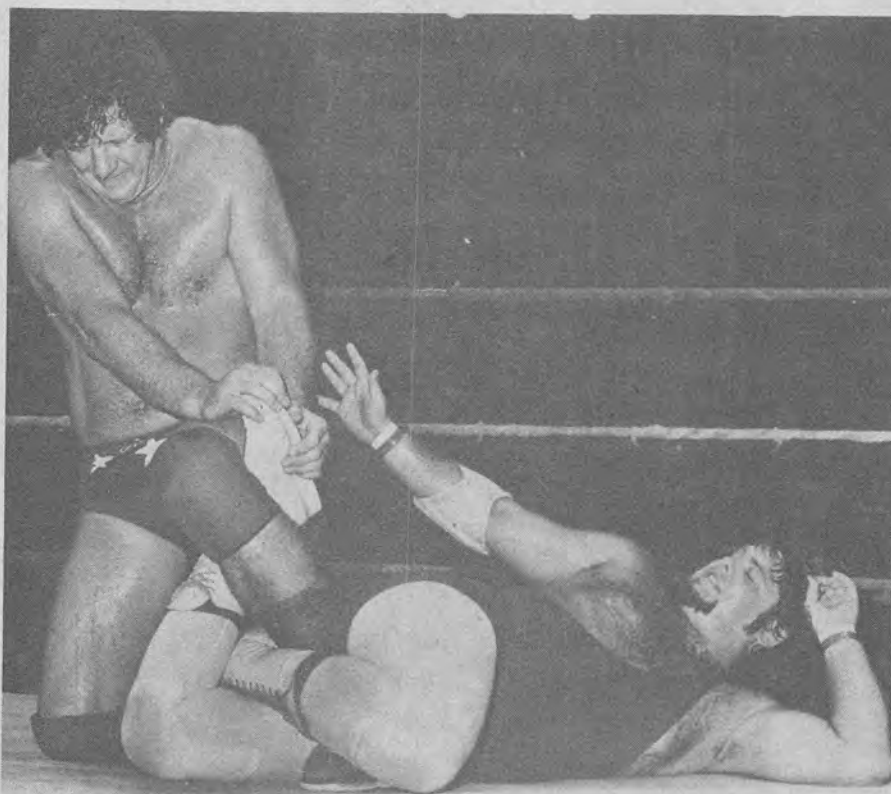
vived. Lawler did a number on him that would have destroyed most of the guys in this sport. Where did Lawler learn to be so good? Where does anyone learn to be that good?"

"Born with it," an elderly journalist proclaimed, "a man's born with that skill. It was just lying there, waiting for

the right moment to come out. A championship match is the kind of thing that will do it. That second fall was the best Jerry Lawler has ever been. Hell, the man was better than most people could ever dream of being!"

"But Funk held his own!" the first

TUGHEST MATCH... S BEST!



A version of a toe hold (above) is Jerry Lawler's biggest problem at the moment. Jerry does break free and gets revenge when he flings Terry onto the ring apron and prepares to bash the NWA champion's head into a steel ringpost (below). Terry was almost counted out when he fell to the arena floor—but made it back by nine.



reporter declared in awe. "His defensive maneuvers were superb. He moved with the grace of a leopard. When Lawler had him in that armlock, I thought for sure Funk was doomed. Yet, he moved beautifully, perfectly made his escape. The way he rolled free, twisting his entire body, was incredibly fine. I hoped they filmed the match. People all over the world should see what this sport is all about."

"It wasn't just Funk's skill," another added, "it was his courage. The man had the guts of a bandit tonight. Did you see the way he moved when Lawler got him in that headlock? He could have cracked his back if he made even a slight error. That was the riskiest thing I've ever seen a champion do. He not only got away with it, but he broke Lawler's spirit at the same time. Don't blame Jerry, either. If it had happened to me, I'd have been in tears. That was one great headlock—for nothing!"

"What really must have killed Lawler, though," said another member of the group, "was that stepover toe hold. I'll take all the disappointment in the world and survive it. But the pain from that toe hold is more than I could take. What's more, it was perfectly done, really textbook perfect. That's what really foiled Jerry's title bid—Funk's perfection."

"Against anyone but Funk," another added, "Jerry Lawler would have been victorious tonight. He was superb. For about half the time, I thought we were in for a real upset. For the other half of the time, I didn't think Terry Funk could be beaten by a human. He was that good."

Eventually, the reporters stopped talking about the match and went to interview the wrestlers. Funk was the first to meet them. He was still weak from the match, all his adrenalin was spent. The only celebration after this match would be the sweet relief of sleep.

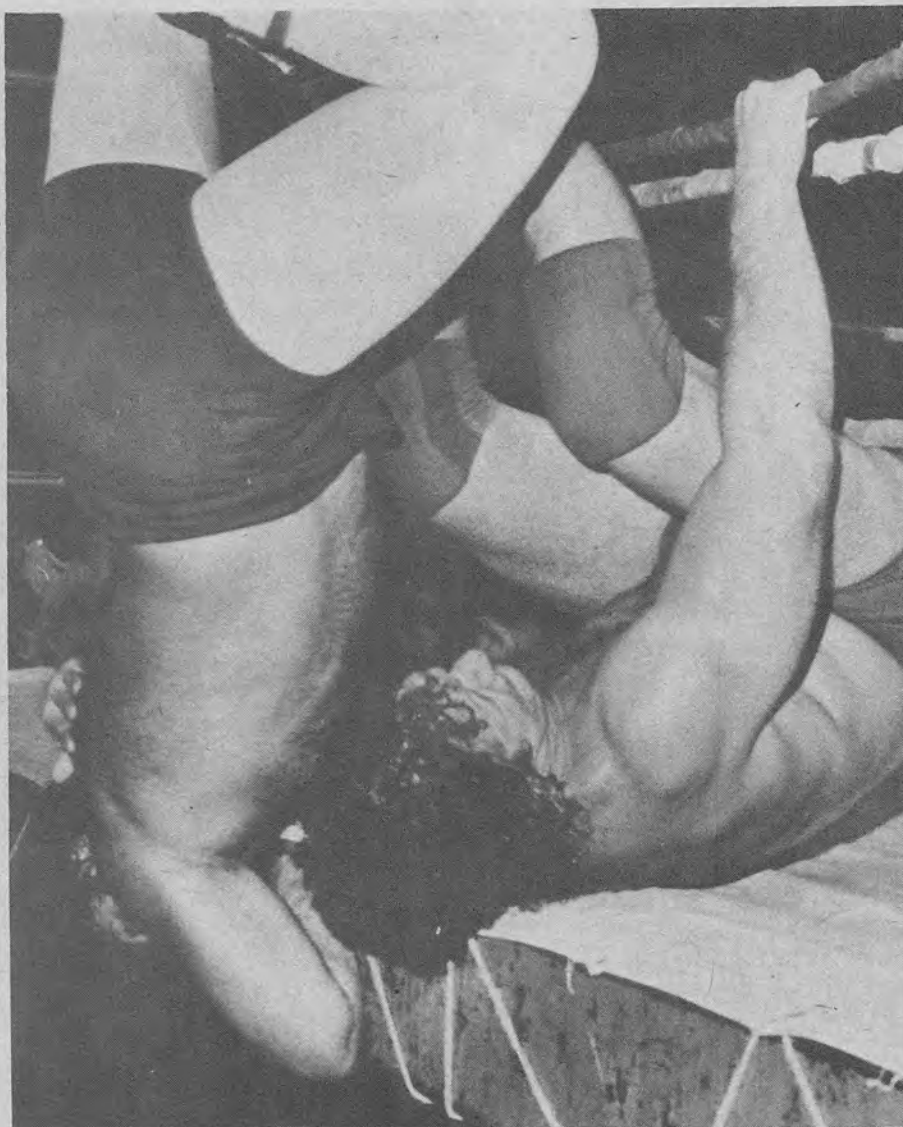
"I guess the criticism about me is going to stop for a while," Funk declared wearily. "That was the best damn match any of you have ever seen. I did it without being cheap or using 'questionable' tactics. I am the best damn wrestler in the world. None of you can deny it."

"Was there ever a time you were worried about losing?" someone asked.

"In a match like that," Funk retorted, "you're always worried about losing. That guy was all over me, smothering some of my best moves. I



Terry hoists Lawler high into the air (above) as he prepares to backbreak the challenger. The two go tumbling over the ropes (right) and crash on the concrete floor. Funk is a real sitting duck (below) as Jerry comes off the top rope and is about to karate thrust him. Terry survived it—something few wrestlers have ever accomplished.



took a lot of risks out there. I did stuff only a champion has to do. If there wasn't a title on the line, chances are Lawler would have been the winner. No meaningless victory is worth what I did."

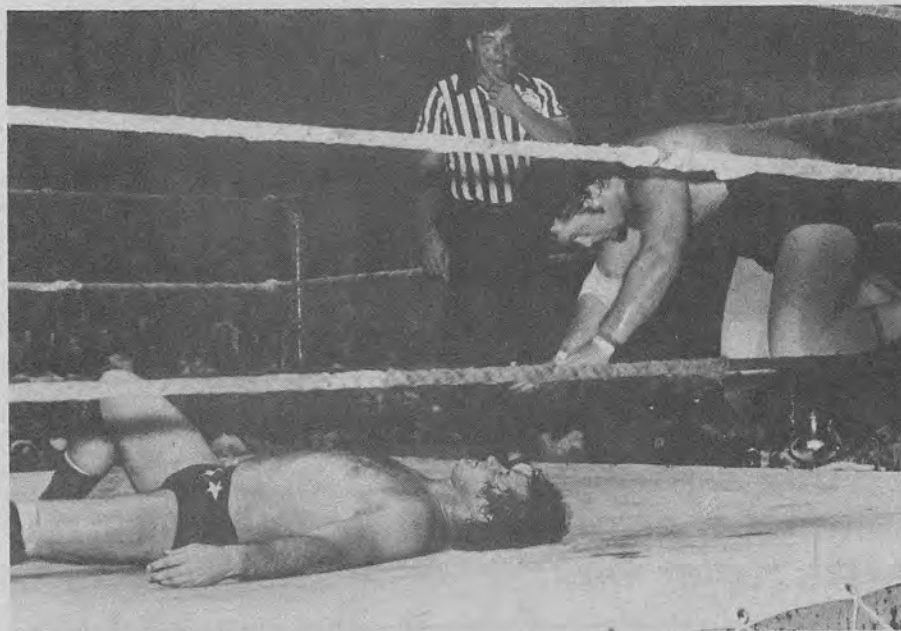
With that, Funk walked away. The NWA champion had proven himself worthy of the title. He had earned the rest he was wearily approaching.

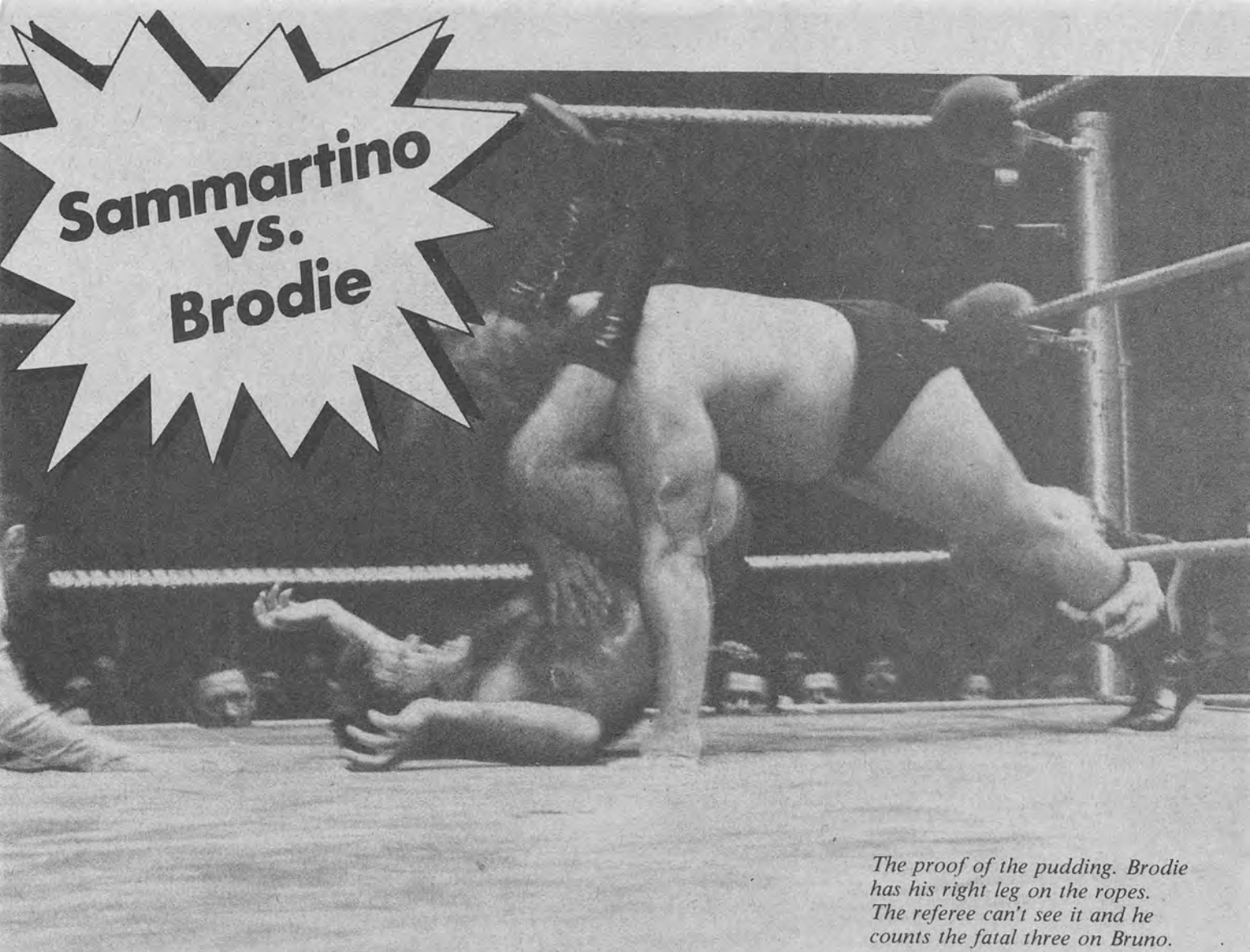
As for Lawler, he came out like a man proud in defeat. He had nothing to be ashamed of. He had done his best against a man possessed. This was a classic match, one which would be remembered long after both men have retired. Lawler also proved he was one of the great ones.

"This time Funk was saved by the time limit," Lawler said with a smirk. "Next time I'll win. There's no way he can win. After all, I'm the best wrestler around. Funk is great and lucky. The odds are next time I'll be lucky . . . and champion."

Although the record books will only show this—"Funk vs. Lawler, Draw, One Hour Time Limit"—those who were there know that is not anywhere near the entire story.

It was a night Terry was in the toughest match of his career. And it was a night Terry Funk proved beyond a doubt he is indeed a champion. □





The proof of the pudding. Brodie has his right leg on the ropes. The referee can't see it and he counts the fatal three on Bruno.

THE NIGHT THE OFFICIALS SAVED BRUNO'S TITLE

PHOTOS BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

For a few tense moments, it appeared Bruiser Brodie had won the WWF title from Bruno Sammartino. But Brodie had made one fatal error—he didn't know that in the WWF cheaters never win!

FOR A FEW incredible moments, it appeared that Bruno Sammartino had lost the championship of the WWWF to Bruiser Brodie!

The ring announcer had entered the ring. A microphone had been lowered. "Ladies and gentlemen," the announcer had intoned, "the new heavyweight champion of the world, Bruiser Frank Brodie!"

But the fans knew better.

Within seconds of the announcement, thousands of spectators voiced their displeasure with the decision. They knew that Bruiser Brodie had not won the title from Bruno Sammartino. They also knew why Brodie had not won.

When Grand Wizard announced he was bringing Frank Brodie into the WWWF to challenge Bruno for the title, many fans became upset. They knew Brodie only by reputation. He was a ruthless rulebreaker who would stop at nothing to achieve his goal — total victory. There were many men who had succumbed to the power and fury of Bruiser Brodie. Very few of them were still able to continue wrestling after their unfortunate encounters.

For several years, Grand Wizard has been searching for just the right man to destroy the career of Bruno Sammartino. Wizard has tried several times with several different men. In the end, the WWWF champion always won, much to the consternation of Grand Wizard.

But then the manager began to hear stories about this one wrestler named Bruiser Frank Brodie. He was exactly what Wizard was searching for—a man who could destroy Sammartino. Grand Wizard went out of his way to find Brodie and sign him to a contract.

Before the ink had even dried on the papers, Wizard and Brodie were on their way to the WWWF to challenge the champion.

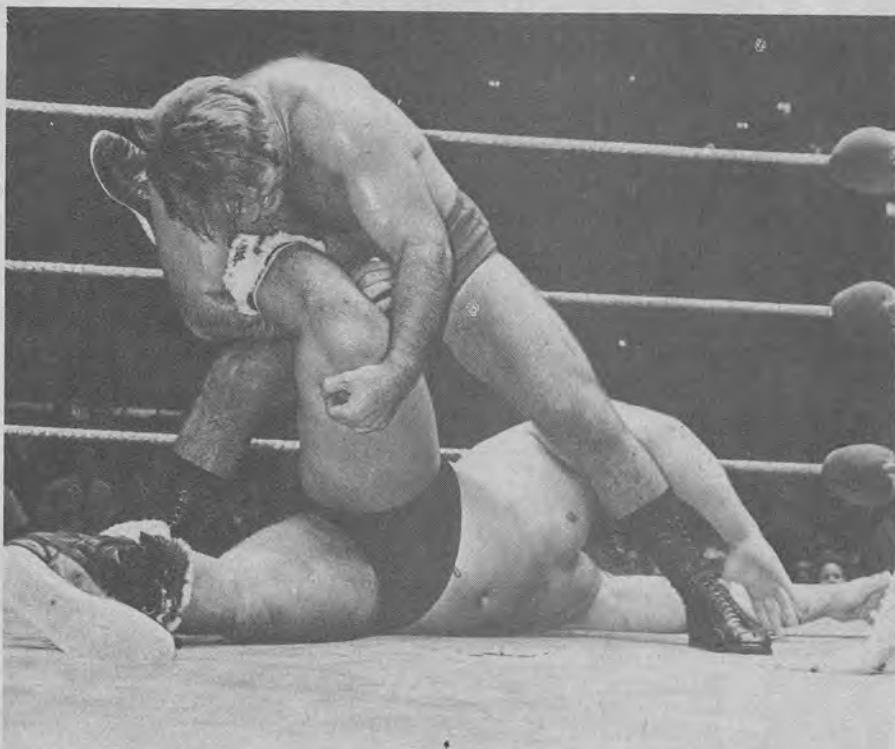
After issuing the challenge, Wizard and Brodie immediately secreted themselves in a special training gym. Once there, Wizard began to remake Brodie. He taught the wrestler tactics and maneuvers even Brodie had never thought of. Needless to say, no attention was paid to wrestling science.

Finally the wrestler and manager were ready to take their case to the public. They sent out press releases telling the world that Bruiser Brodie was ready to take on Bruno Sammartino and win the WWWF championship. In fact, they planned to show Bruno no mercy when they vanquish-



The Grand Wizard holds Brodie's arm up in victory (above) in a match just two days before the one against Bruno. He hoped he could repeat this scene against Sammartino but the judges killed that for him. Brodie hammers Bruno (below) early in the match.





A half Boston crab fails to make Brodie cry "uncle" (above). Brodie grabbed the ropes to force a break. Brodie (above right) has become a real master of foul play since hooking up with the Grand Wizard. Bruno is about to whip Brodie across the ring (below) as he feels he's on his way to sure victory. He didn't know Brodie would pull a fast one later on and make this bout such a controversial match.



ed him. They were quite positive as to what the results were going to be.

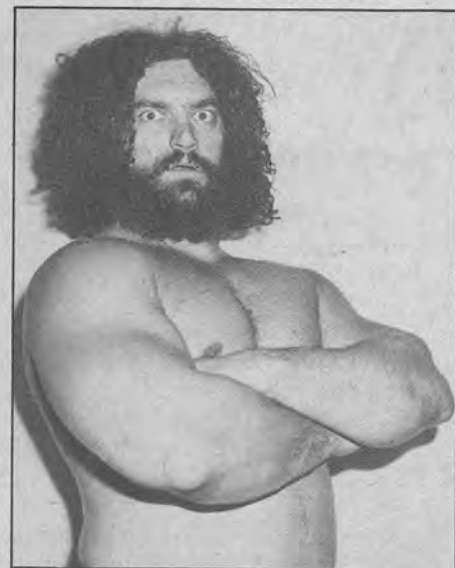
The night of the Brodie-Sammartino confrontation, Grand Wizard told reporters, "After the match tonight, no one will refer to my man as Frank Brodie. People will hail him as 'Bruiser Brodie—the man who destroyed Bruno Sammartino.' It will be glorious, glorious."

For a while it appeared Grand Wizard's prediction was going to come true. From the onset of his match

against Sammartino, Brodie looked awesome. He started the match by departing from any rules. He had only one goal in mind—to win Sammartino's belt!

Bruno was quickly overcome by Bruiser Brodie's tactics. It took all of the champion's strength to prevent losing any ground, but after a few minutes of Brodie's illegal maneuvers, Sammartino lost the advantage.

Against anyone else, Brodie would easily have won then and there. But he



was dealing with Bruno Sammartino, a man who has faced the stiffest competition in all of wrestling. And now Bruno proved why he is a champion.

Sammartino was able to battle against Brodie's brawling by brawling himself. The match turned into an ugly contest of raw strength pitted against raw strength.

All of this brawling took a lot out of the champion. Brodie who is 6-6 and weighs 360 pounds, had weakened Bruno considerably. Within a few minutes, Bruiser Brodie had the champion lying on the canvas. Three seconds later, the match was over and Brodie was declared the new WWF champion.

Except something was wrong.

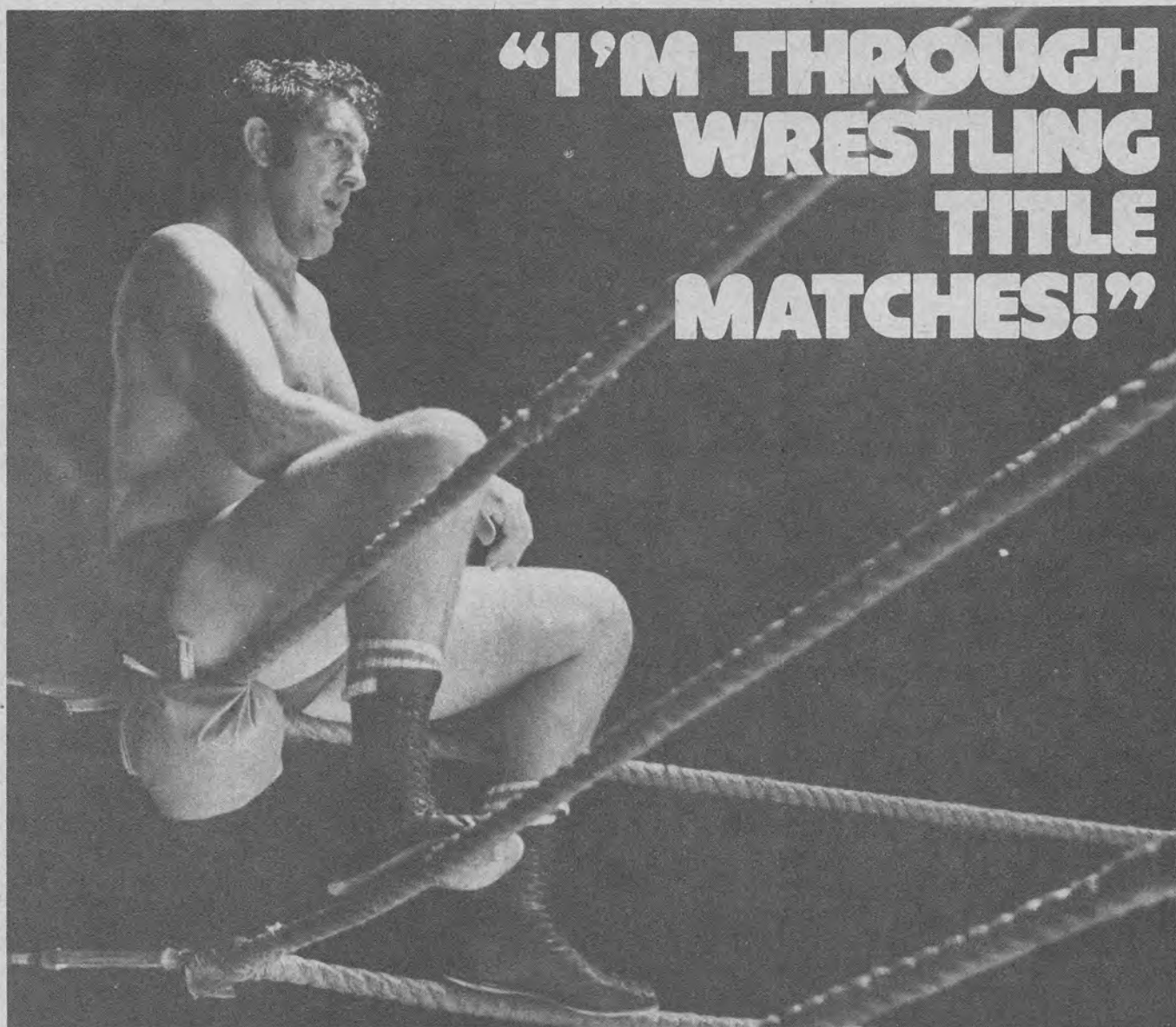
The thousands of spectators had seen it. The judges at ringside had seen it. Only the referee had not seen it. Brodie's foot had been hooked on the ropes as he was pinning Bruno. This clearly constituted cheating.

Soon after the announcer had proclaimed Bruiser Brodie the new champion, he made another announcement: "In the opinion of the judges, Bruiser Brodie did not win the match. Bruno Sammartino is still the champion of the WWF. Frank Brodie has been disqualified for having his foot on the ropes."

The thousands of spectators cheered the decision. Grand Wizard immediately demanded a rematch for his wrestler. "This time," he said, "we are not going to let someone steal the belt from us. We won it, and we intend to keep it!"

If the judges had not changed the results, there would be a new WWF champion now. But apparently Bruiser Brodie is not finished with the work he set out to do. Can he achieve his goal in due time? □

What Made Billy Robinson Say...



**“I’M THROUGH
WRESTLING
TITLE
MATCHES!”**

IT’S A HARD, lonely life struggling to become a champion. The sacrifices separate you from the rest of the world. Pleasures are denied and friends lost. Making the sorrow worthwhile is a vision of glory and accomplishment greater than dreams. It’s the privilege of being exactly who you want to be.

However for most wrestlers, the ambition remains only a dream. Eventually, the sacrifices become

too great, and the chances for success too slim. Then you give up the vision and settle for a scheme, a career of respect, honor, but no glory. It’s the saddest decision a man can make; surrender at its most merciless.

Billy Robinson has taken the first step on the road of this surrender. He has issued a public pronouncement declaring no more championship matches for him in the immedi-

ate future. It was a terse statement that told little and revealed too much. In a subsequent interview—one Robinson hesitated to give—the reasons for his sadness became more apparent.

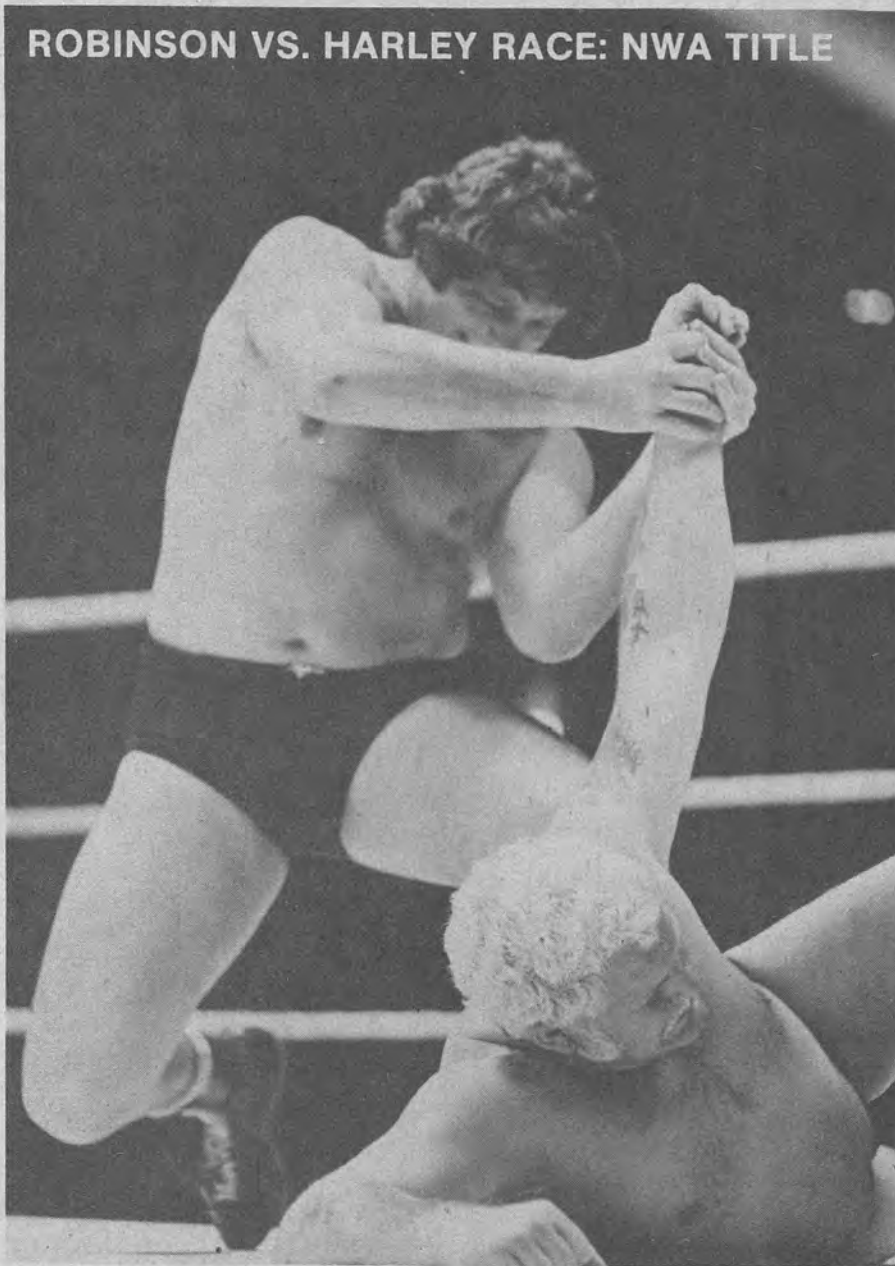
“I have said all I wanted to say in my two sentence press release,” Robinson explained, as if daring us to probe much deeper into his despair. “I told you what I’m going

(Continued)

No man has struggled for a wrestling championship with more dignity than Billy Robinson. His shocking decision to leave the title wars is a warning wrestling cannot afford to ignore

Billy Robinson has wrestled for a title in almost every association except the World Wide Wrestling Federation. Each time he has come up against a champion, he misses getting the title by some small quirk of fate. Because of this Billy isn't sure he wants title bouts.

ROBINSON VS. HARLEY RACE: NWA TITLE



to do. My reasons are my own."

But doesn't a top challenger's decision to stop trying for the big prize reveal something important about the sport?

"I'm a human being who wrestles," Robinson countered, "not a man controlled by wrestling. What I do has no bearing on what makes other people choose different courses of action. But if my fans, who have been great to me, want to know my reasons, then I'll tell them. I want it understood, I'm doing this for my fans, not for wrestling."

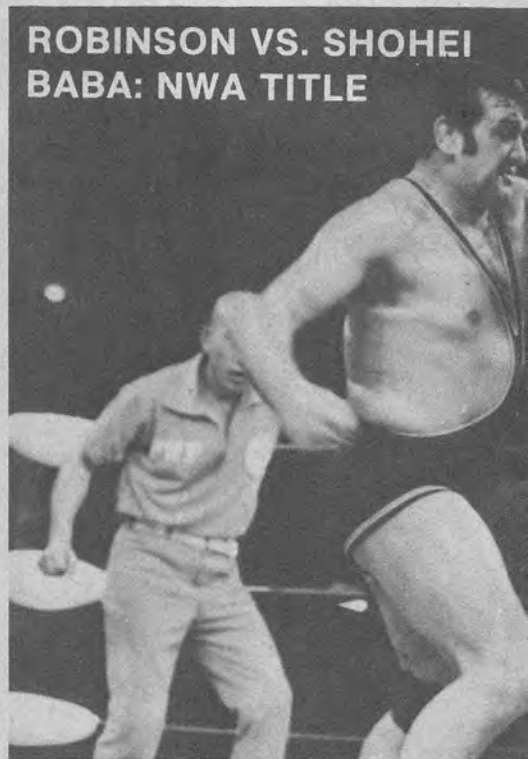
The following wasn't easy for Robinson to say. Many times he

searched painfully for the right word. Other times declarations were contradicted in the next sentence. Perhaps Robinson didn't wish to reveal his reasons because he was so confused about them.

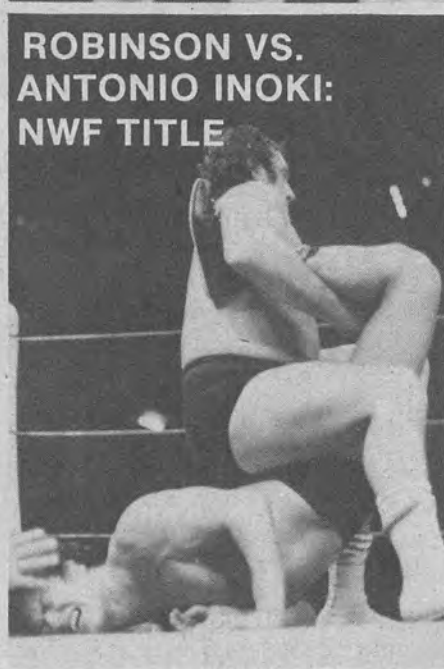
"I've wrestled the champions for years," Billy declares, "and I always did my best. I'm a scientific wrestler, and proud of it. I'm not ashamed of any match I've ever been in. I defy a single champion to make that statement."

"The fact of the matter is the rules favor the champion to an incredible extent. It's next to impossible for a championship to change hands in a scientific encounter. A challenger is

ROBINSON VS. SHOHEI BABA: NWA TITLE

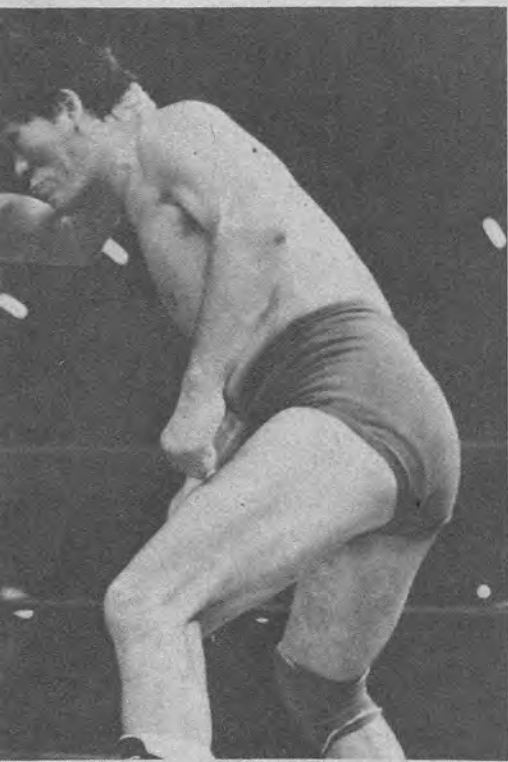


ROBINSON VS. ANTONIO INOKI: NWF TITLE

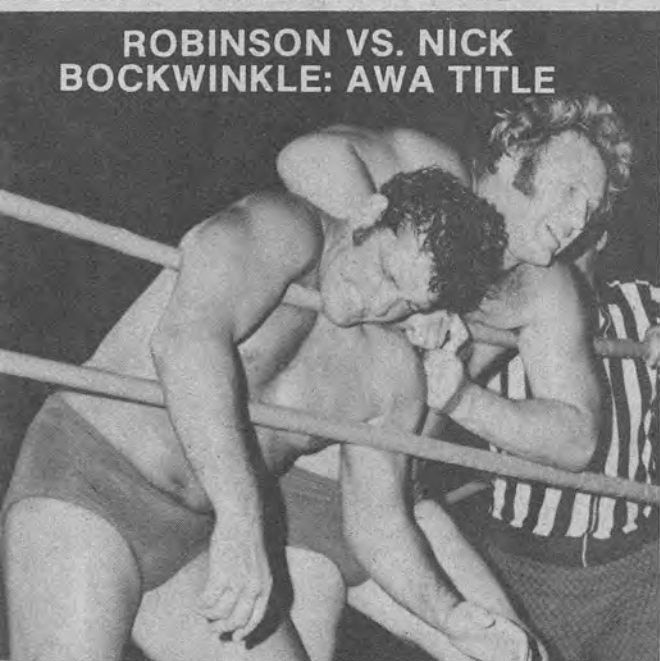


forced to cheat. I defy you to name a match in the last 20 years where a champion wrestling scientifically was beaten by a challenger doing the same. It can't be done, not the way they have the rules set up.

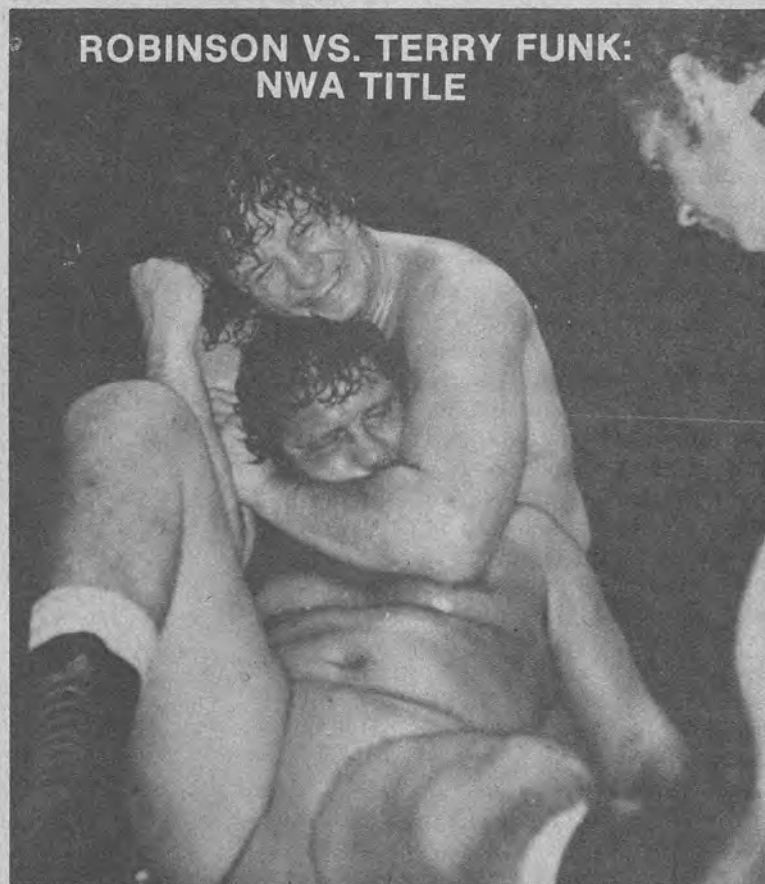
"I don't want to win the title while drowning in a sea of controversy. I want to win it with dignity. The rules make that impossible. As long as a champion can do anything he wants to get disqualified without losing his title, you can kiss any hopes you have goodbye. You've got to cheat to stop the disqualifying maneuver. And then your title has been won in a shoddy manner. No championship reign deserves to be born in



ROBINSON VS. VERNE GAGNE: AWA TITLE



ROBINSON VS. NICK BOCKWINKLE: AWA TITLE



ROBINSON VS. TERRY FUNK: NWA TITLE

scandal.

"So I've decided to no longer knock my head against the wall I'll wrestle the best challengers, doing what I like to do best. Only I will not bang my head against a brick wall anymore. I'm not going to be the fall guy for unscrupulous champions. I'm sick of guys saying they defended their titles against Billy Robinson. They didn't defeat me, but wound up with a title defense against me. I don't lose the match, but lose my reputation!"

Bitter, Billy hopes his fans will understand his change of heart and follow him.

"I'll be wrestling even better

now," Robinson promises, "because I won't have to worry about technicalities. Without a title at stake, a man wins or loses. There's no being saved by the rulebook. I'll be the best scientific wrestler around—the only one who hasn't sold his soul for a belt!"

"I still love wrestling. It's the most important thing in my life. Everything I do is in some way aimed to make me a better grappler. I feel I owe the fans and the sport my best, which is what I intend to give them. A man doesn't wrestle his best when wrestling for a championship: he wrestles worried, wrestles scared. At least I'll wrestle proud."

The preceding statements were taken from over two hours of interviewing. Robinson wandered through thoughts only to have them stumble in confusion. Hopefully, what is printed above is what Robinson wanted to say through his uncertainty and anger.

Robinson is wrong when he believes his statements have no bearing on the wrestling profession. His arguments must be evaluated by everyone concerned with the sport. What happened to Billy Robinson must not happen to any other great wrestler. The sport demands he return to championship competition. □

Remarkable But True---

The picture no one ever thought he'd see (right). It's a formal pose of the new tag team comprised of Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower. The two have buried the hatchet for now and are getting along like old friends. But how long can it last? Your guess is just as good as ours!

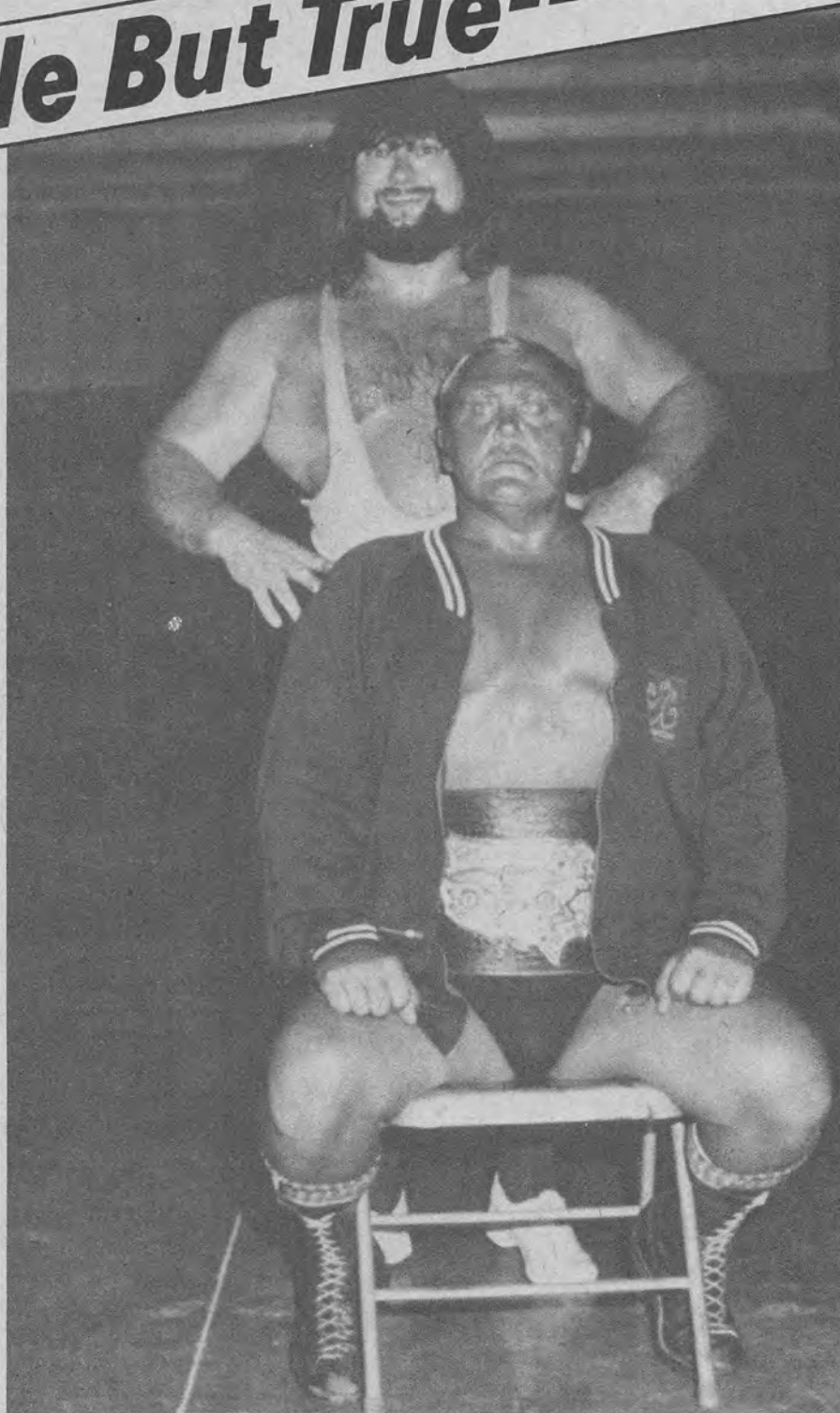
EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT the terrible feuds that have been waged between Bulldog Brower and Mighty Igor. An almost endless amount of blood has been shed in their brutal matches. So it came as quite a surprise when the two suddenly became friends.

It was all an accident. It was never supposed to happen.

A six man tag team match had been arranged. Kurt Von Hess, Karl Von Stroheim, and Bulldog Brower were on one team. Johnny Powers, Phil Watson, and Mighty Igor were on the opposite team. And, as is custom in most six-man tag team matches, things did not progress in an orderly fashion. In fact, there was pandemonium.

As would be expected, there was considerable rulebreaking on the parts of Von Hess, Von Stroheim, and Brower: Brower was busy in the ring beating up on Johnny Powers; Kurt Von Hess and Carl Von Stroheim were busy outside of the ring crippling Phil Watson; Mighty Igor was in the corner waiting for a tag.

Somehow Brower was able to overtake Johnny Powers, who he



MIGHTY IGOR AND BULLDOG BROWER ARE FRIENDS!!!

Can two arch enemies like Bulldog Brower and Mighty Igor suddenly become friends? Read this incredible but true story and find out for yourself!



The usual calm Igor was turned into a maniac in his matches against Brower. He attacks Bulldog with a chair after Brower made him a bloody mess. Now they've ceased this and have become good friends.

left nearly crippled in the middle of the ring. He looked around for one of his partners for a tag. But neither of them was ready to be tagged; both Von Hess and Von Stroheim were still outside the ring beating up on Phil Watson.

In the meantime, Powers was able to get back to his corner and tag Mighty Igor, who promptly stepped into the ring. Brower was still looking for a tag from one of his teammates, but they were ignoring him. Igor, seeing that Brower was not ready to do battle with him, went

over to where Von Hess and Von Stroheim were crippling Watson to see if he could rescue his teammates.

Brower was becoming more and more frustrated with his teammates. He yelled at them to stop what they were doing and tag him. Neither one listened to him. They continued their effort against Phil.

So there stood Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower, both looking down at the action happening outside the ring. Slowly they turned towards each other until they were staring



During the days they were bitter enemies Brower used every weapon available against the Mighty Igor.

into each other's eyes. Both of them shrugged their shoulders, looked back down at what was going on outside the ring, and silently came to a mutual agreement.

They quickly scrambled over the ropes and out of the ring. Both men then assaulted Von Stroheim and Von Hess, and stopped their attack on Phil. After they had finished, Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower shook hands and walked back to the dressing rooms together.

The spectators who had witnessed this were shocked. Never had these two men spoken two nice words to each other. Suddenly they were friends! The two men secreted themselves in Igor's dressing room. For two hours they spoke about the past feuds, people they both knew and liked or hated. They laughed at what they had sometimes done to one another. By the end of the night, they were behaving like two old friends.

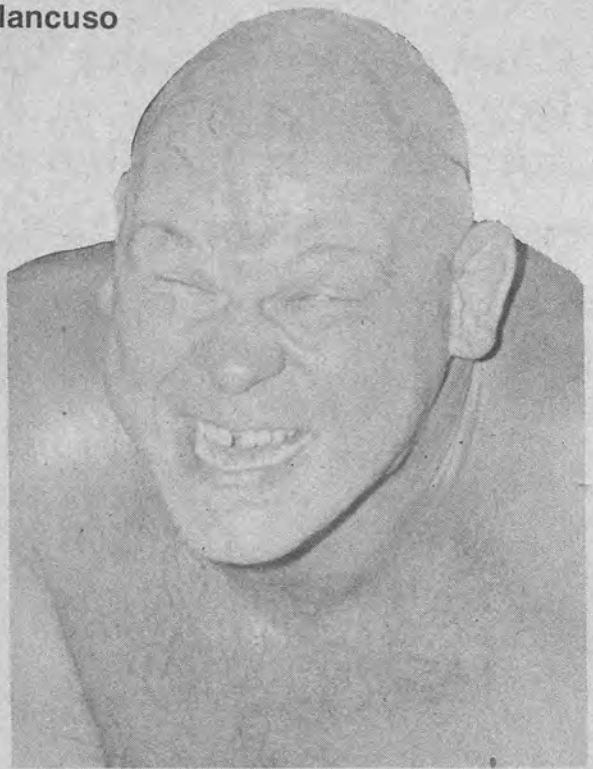
Of course, people immediately began speculating as to how long this new friendship could last. After all, these two men have hated each other for years. There have been many injuries between them, and there certainly has been a lot of blood shed over the years.

So the question remains: In spite of all that happened before, can these two men learn to forgive and forget? It's all a matter of time. □

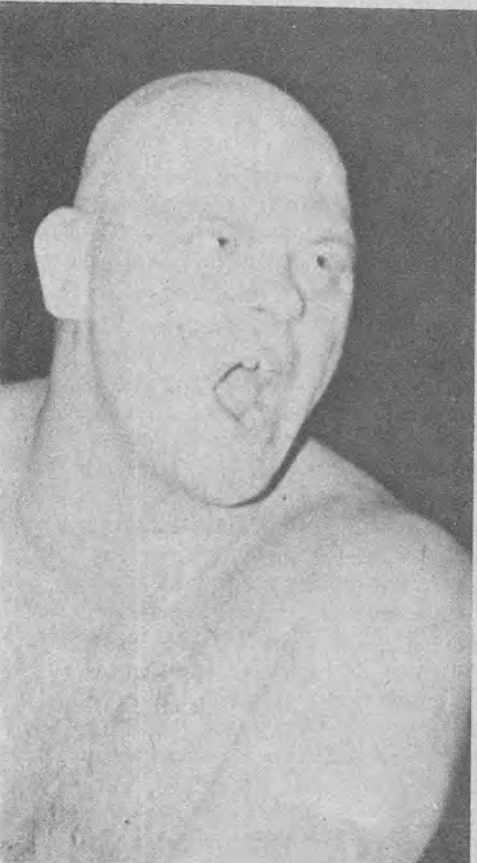
Photos By Gary Mancuso



Left: "A prince? A king? A great warrior? It could be any of these. Tell me. Have you ever seen anybody so regal looking? One look at this photo is all you need to know I've got class." Right: "Ah the expression of delight. This photo, no doubt, was taken while I was inflicting some horrible punishment of some unfortunate opponent, like that clown the Bruiser."

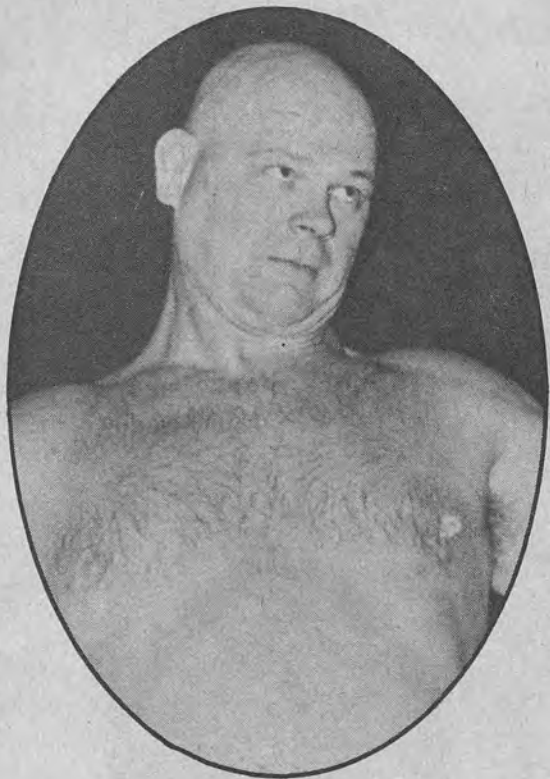


THE MANY FACES OF BARON FRITZ VON RASCHKE

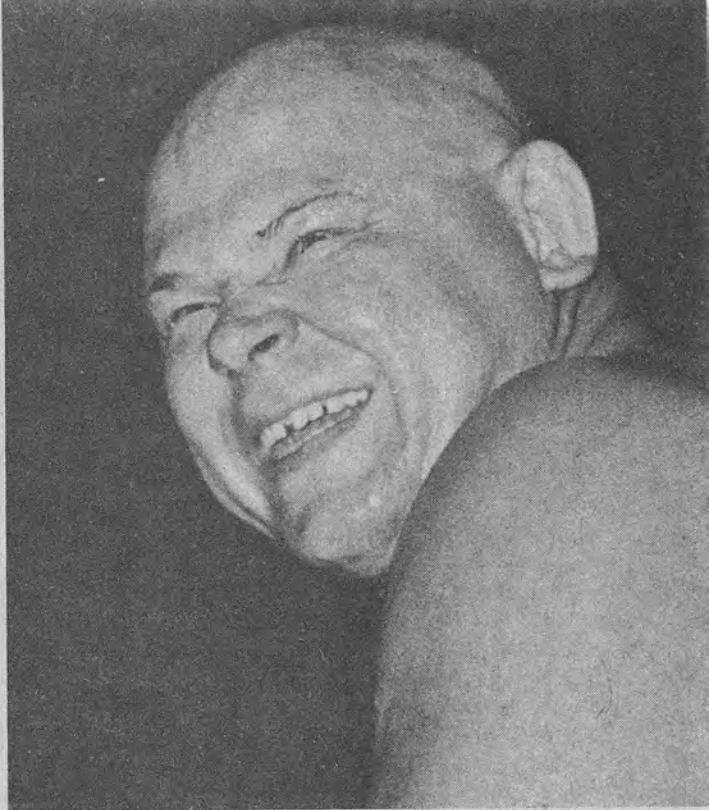


Above: "Here I am, in all my glory, gloating after another sensational triumph. The picture captures the essence of my greatness." Left: "Here I am angry, probably at some referee." Right: "The result of a sneak attack by Bruiser."

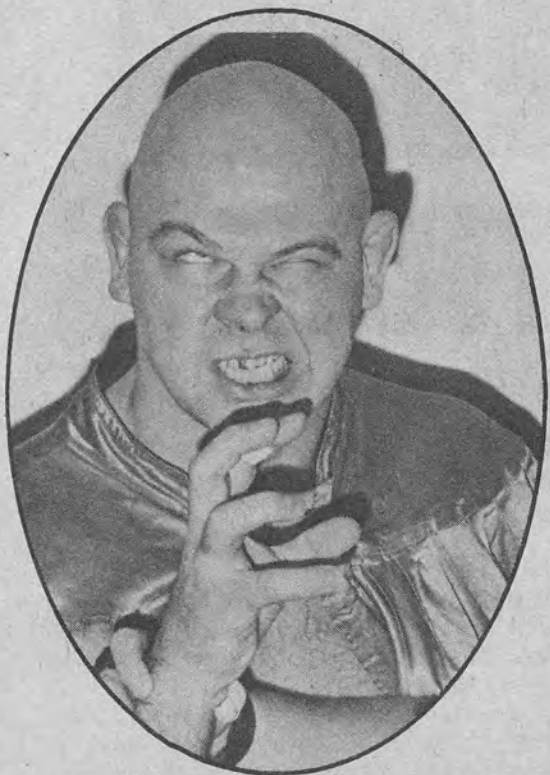




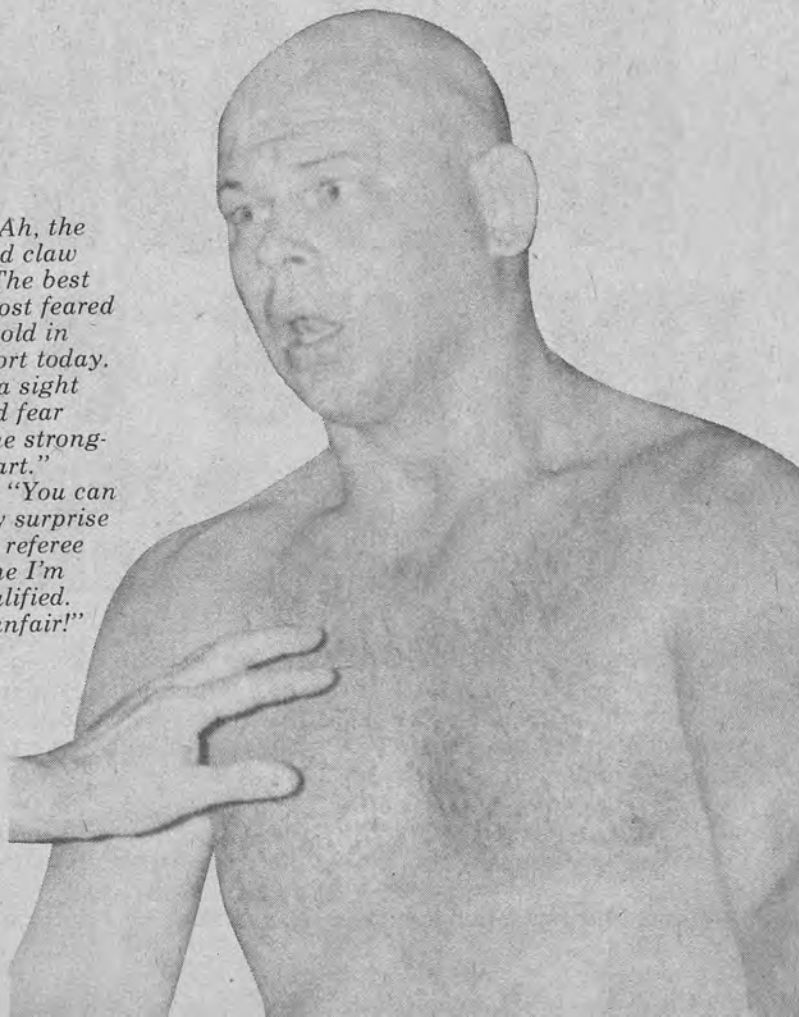
Left: "This is a sensational study in absolute concentration as I analyze my opponent from the other side of the ring before a match. Right: "This is a smile of sweet victory after I have annihilated that opponent. Few of the men who meet me in the ring ever smile about it afterwards."



Wrestlers are complex people. They're happy, sad, angry, fearful. Baron Von Raschke is a man whose face shows his emotions. Photographer Gary Mancuso captures all these emotions beautifully in this photo essay



Left: "Ah, the dreaded claw hold! The best and most feared claw hold in the sport today. Truly a sight to send fear into the strongest heart." Right: "You can see my surprise as the referee tells me I'm disqualified. How unfair!"



"FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED," said Mike Graham. "I'm not afraid of what my father is going to do, I'm worried about what people will think. Oh, I know it is useless to be concerned about idle gossip. But still, I would rather there be no talk at all."

It all happened rather quickly for Mike Graham. First Jack Addkinson, a well-respected man throughout wrestling, resigned from the presidency of the NWA. Then the Board of Directors elected Mike's father, Eddie Graham, to take over the position of chief executive officer. As soon as that had happened, the rumor, lies, innuendo, and gossip started flying throughout the NWA regarding Mike Graham.

Of course, Eddie Graham was a logical choice to succeed Jack Addkinson. Besides his success as a wrestler, Eddie has served for a number of years as administrator for several charitable institutions.

GRAHAM NAMED N.W.A. PRESIDENT



EDDIE GRAHAM

Here's some real good news for Florida wrestling fans: Eddie Graham has been named President of the National Wrestling Alliance. Eddie has earned a lot of respect from the people of Florida and elsewhere in the nation, both as a competitor and as a public-spirited citizen who is never too busy to help out with a worthwhile project, especially one which involves our youth.

The NWA membership seemed to feel that the sport needed the leadership of a man who has distinguished himself as

an outstanding athlete and a man of exemplary personal character and integrity. Eddie Graham probably meets these qualifications better than any man available.

Eddie Graham's wrestling career has been spectacular, indeed. He has held the southern heavyweight championship and has been co-holder of both the Florida and the world tag team championships. Early in his career, he wrestled to a one hour draw with former world heavyweight champion Buddy Rogers.

Eddie has been ranked

among the top ten athletes by the NWA for over a decade. He is respected by friend and foe alike, in or out of the ring.

Graham was instrumental in helping the Florida Sheriffs' Boys Ranch during that fine organization's formative years, and thanks to the interest Eddie helped generate, wrestling continues to contribute to this and other worthwhile youth projects.

As head man of the National Wrestling Alliance, Eddie will have no easy task. It is the president's responsibility to see that the rules of the game are enforced vigorously but fairly in a great many different places.

"I'd like to thank the members of the National Wrestling Alliance for conferring this honor upon me," Eddie told us, "and I want to insure not only the NWA but the American public as well that I intend to make every effort to do the kind of job that will bring credit, not to Eddie Graham, but to the sport of wrestling."

Fans throughout Florida and the nation join with us in wishing Eddie Graham well in his new position as NWA President.



IS MIKE GRAHAM DOOMED BY HIS FATHER'S SUCCESS?

His business acumen is also highly regarded. And throughout the NWA, the choice of Eddie Graham as president was hailed as the best possible selection.

But the beginning of Eddie's tenure also marked the beginning of a new set of troubles for Mike Graham.

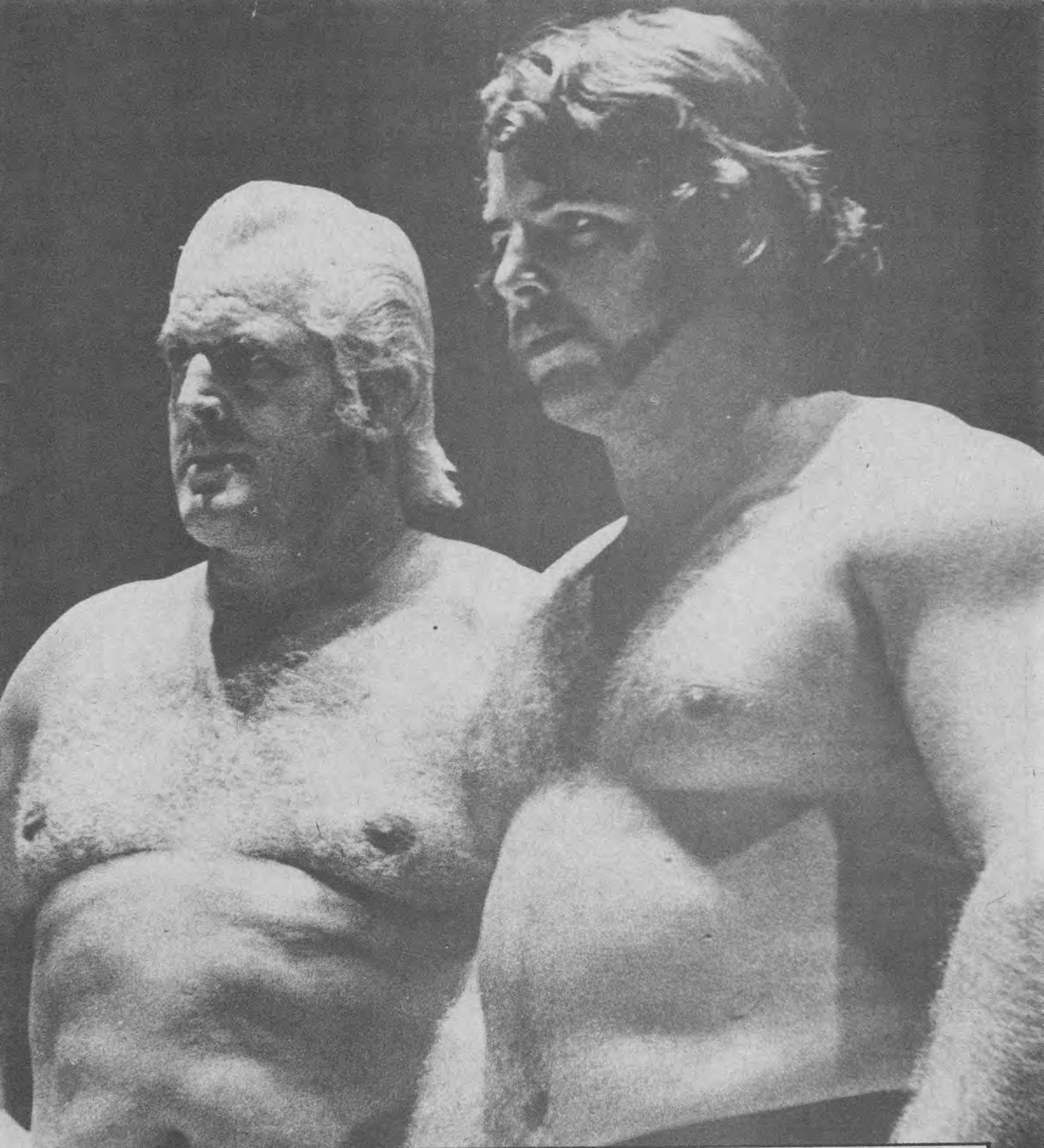
Although he has often credited

his father with helping him break into professional wrestling, Mike likes to think he has proven himself to be an able wrestler on his own. He likes to think he has proven his abilities over the last few years. He likes to think he is now his own man, not just his father's son. And people in the NWA have agreed with Mike's assessment until

recently.

With the advent of Eddie's presidency of the association, new aspersions have been cast, unjustly Mike believes, upon the young man's career. Some people now believe his father's new position could mean a streak of untimely good luck for the young wrestler.

(Continued on page 64)



When Eddie Graham became president of the NWA, those who don't know the grappler well thought his son, Mike, would get preferential treatment. Those who do know Eddie well are afraid of just the opposite—the new president may unwittingly destroy his son's career!

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- ☐ April 1972

(INSIDE WRESTLING con't.)

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY

(Continued from Page 8)

Bobo Brazil taking on The Executioners in individual competition . . . Chavo Guerrero looking for a break to take a vacation. However, the kid is so popular, the promoters refuse to give him a break in his schedule! . . . Roddy Piper hoping to get into main events in Texas rings . . . The Valiants are headed back to the AWA.

Pedro Morales has stopped to wrestle in Missouri before continuing on to the AWA.

"I've never wrestled in the Missouri areas," says Pedro. "They have a lot of great competition there and I hope to take on some of their best wrestlers." Pedro was greeted with a warm ovation by the crowds in Kansas City and St. Louis. They appreciated the former WWF champion stopping in their cities to show off his great wrestling skills.

The rumors are still hot and heavy about the ill feelings between Nick Bockwinkel and manager Bobby Heenan. And the amazing part about it is that it might not be a rumor—due to the fact that neither Nick or Heenan are not going out of their way to deny

the gossip.

Mil Mascaras continues to wrestle in Latin America countries but hopes to be back in the United States soon. "I miss all my fans there," he says . . . The Sheik's advisor, Eddie Creatchman, needed several stitches due to the unscheduled beating Bobo Brazil handed him . . . Don Kent continues his bloody wars against Mark Lewin . . . Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell are after the AWA tag team belts held by Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum . . . Professor Tanaka is anxious to get back to Georgia to continue his feud with Mr. Wrestling II . . . Bruiser and Crusher teaming less—wrestling single matches more often . . . Steve Keirn's battles against Bob Roop are some of the most savage in history.

Hard feelings have developed between former NWA kings Jack Brisco and Pat O'Connor. Jack is hurt about the news that O'Connor, an old friend, aided Terry Funk with some sound advice about how to beat Jack for the title last December.

"Terry asked me for advice," O'Connor states. "Had Jack asked me

for some pointers about Terry, I would have helped him too. But he never approached me. Terry did. I'm sorry if I hurt his feelings. I didn't intend it to happen this way."

"Look," Brisco points out, "O'Connor held the title for two years. He knows how tough it is. He made my ordeal even tougher by giving pointers to Funk. How do you think he learned to combat my best moves? O'Connor must have showed him. I'm really surprised Pat would do such a thing to me."

A match is scheduled between the two and it should prove very interesting.

This final item: Dory Funk Jr. is continuing to "police" for brother Terry. Dory's just issued a challenge to Jerry Lawler. "I'll see you never get the chance to win my brother's title!" blasted the older of the two brothers. "You're finished, Lawler. I'm gonna end your career. When you shoot your mouth off, like you have ben, saying you almost beat Terry, that hurts me. You'll pay for it!"

It just doesn't sound like the Dory Funk Jr. of a few years ago—the good sportsman we all remember.

And that's what's happening, baby!

□

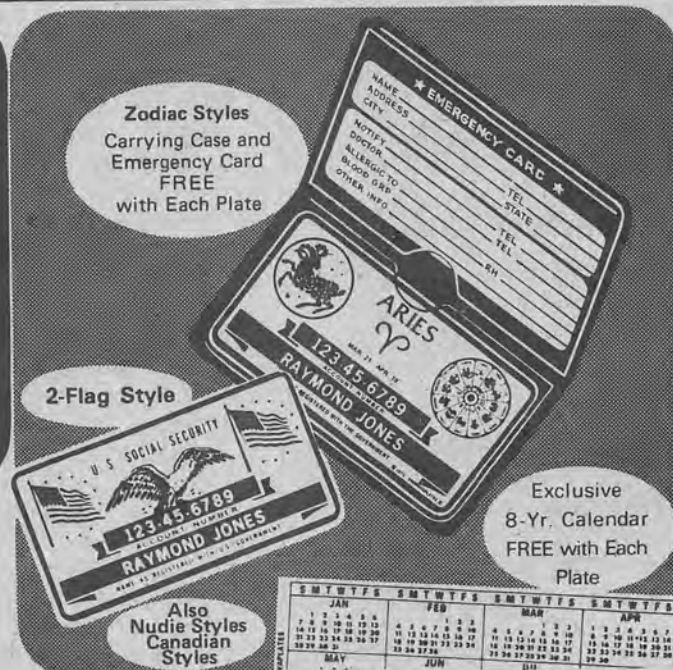
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BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

(Continued from Page 21)

title. It's an honor to be champion, and even a man like Mulligan realizes this. So he's not really defending himself, he's defending his title reign.

Examine Mulligan's statement concerning which challengers to accept: "I take on everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from. The mid-Atlantic title is the only one where the fans can't say the champ is running, afraid to take on certain guys. No matter what they say about how I wrestle, they can't complain about who I wrestle. That's one thing they won't criticize me about."

He doesn't take on all challengers because he wants them; he does it just to shut up his critics. And who are the ones he feels compelled to defend his title reign against?

"The people I hate most," Mulligan swears, "are the rats in the magazines and the fans who write letters about me. That stuff is kept forever. People look back on them after many years. What will the people think of me 100 years from now? They'll read the magazines, look at those lousy films, and decide I was a rulebreaker, a rotten champion. That'll be my reputation forever!"

"There are 5,000 year old statues in Greece of wrestlers. These guys who posed for them or inspired them will live forever. Film can do the same thing for me. Now, a lot of wrestling films are destroyed over the years. The ones that last are of championship matches. Then they'll choose only the champs with the best reputation. In an instant, my immortality will go up in smoke. And why? Because they'll look back at those magazines and the lies about me. People are trying to destroy my immortality."

It would seem Mulligan could protect his reputation by being an honorable wrestler. That is logical but impossible. Blackjack is scared, that's the only word for it, scared of wrestling scientifically. All his success has been against the rules—torturing while defeating opponents. He needs fear more than respect. If his opponents didn't worry about being maimed, Mulligan wouldn't know how to cope. He'd be afraid to meet his foes on an equal basis.

Blackjack Mulligan is trying for immortality. All he can expect from posterity is infamy. □



After handing Paul Jones a real bad whipping (above) Mulligan is not satisfied. He then attacks the referee (below) and renders the hapless official unconscious.

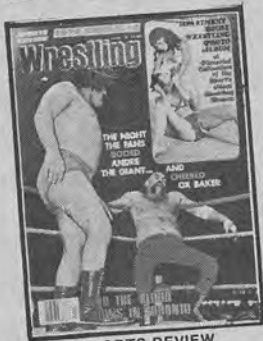


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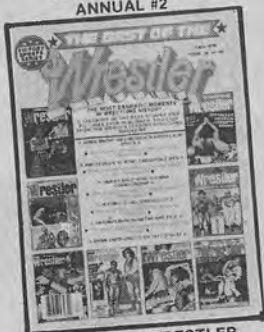
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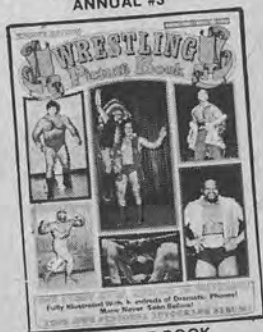
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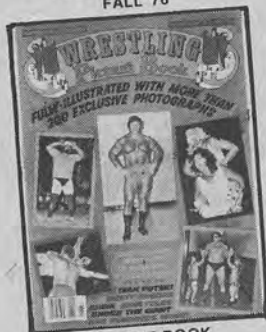
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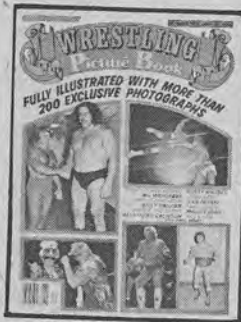
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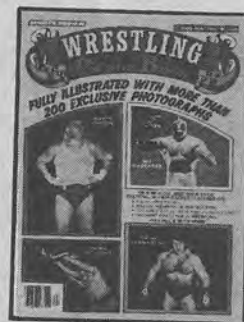
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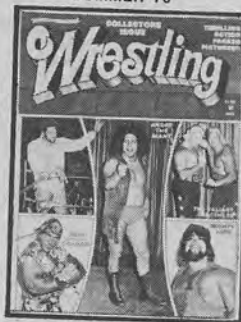
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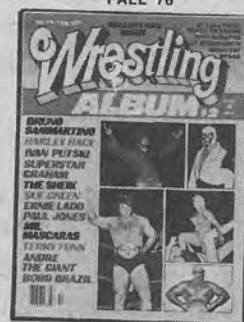
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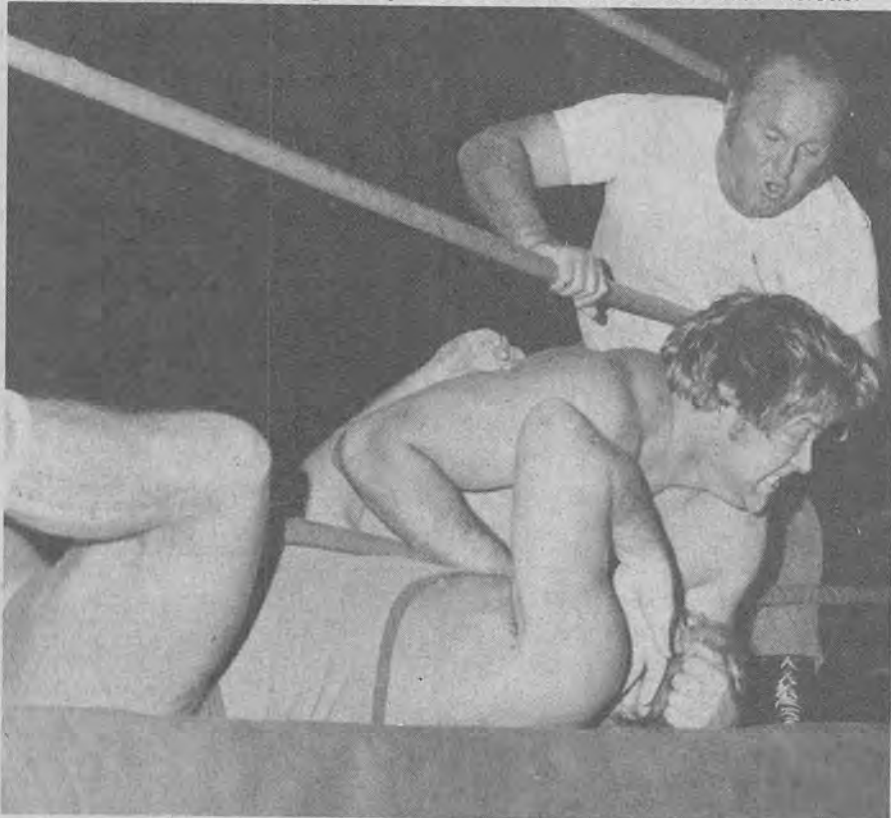


RAY STEVENS

(Continued from Page 25)



Beau James became impressed with Ray when Stevens was in the AWA areas torturing men like Billy Robinson (above) and Red Bastien (below). Knowing Ray could not be managed by Bobby Heenan in the NWA areas, James bought Ray's contract and made him more vicious.



wrestle today is to fear the depths of human cruelty as never before.

As you might expect, both wrestler and manager are delighted with the results. Their joy is doubled when they realize the hatred felt for them by everyone else!

"People are always jealous of the best," Stevens says through a twisted smile, "so they hate me. Beau James is

the greatest manager in the world, and I'm proof of that. I'm 10 times as good as I was this time last year.

"I've been using the same maneuvers for too long. I haven't been growing experimenting, really enjoying what I'm doing. Now I'm crippling guys in ways I never dreamed of! Beau James is a genius! And I'm the product of genius!" Stevens voice grows low

and ugly as he concludes, "And every-one better watch the hell out for me now!"

Interestingly enough, Stevens doesn't talk incessantly about winning the championship. In his mind, he's already proven himself to be the best in wrestling. Perhaps he's waiting for the champion to challenge him! Stevens may have some new moves, but he still has the old large ego.

It's amazing the egos of Stevens and James can fit into the same arena. Beau is convinced he's the greatest manager in history, a hero in his own time. The Stevens transformation has been compared (by James) to the greatest feats in human history.

"Did you see him last night?" Beau asks about Stevens' slaughtering of a respected veteran. "Did you see it all up close in all its splendor. It had to be the greatest match ever by the best wrestler ever following the most remarkable strategy ever—devised by me, Beau James. Together, Stevens



Stevens tries to bash in the head of Dick Murdoch. Ray is a savage since he hooked up with the evil Beau James.

and James are the greatest combination in wrestling. We're better than any before us. We are what wrestling has struggled to become for over 5,000 years.

"Stevens is just incredible. No matter how difficult the maneuver, he executes it perfectly. There's nothing that man can't do. Nothing!"

That's an understatement. Stevens does things that would turn a sadist's stomach. He doesn't just wrestle, he assaults, cripples, maims and tortures. Ray Stevens was often considered the most dangerous man in wrestling. Now he's more dangerous than ever! □

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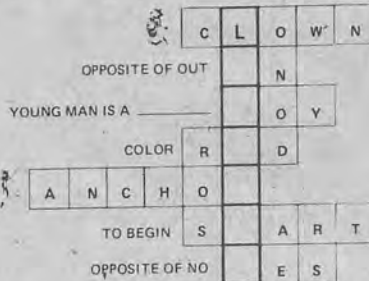
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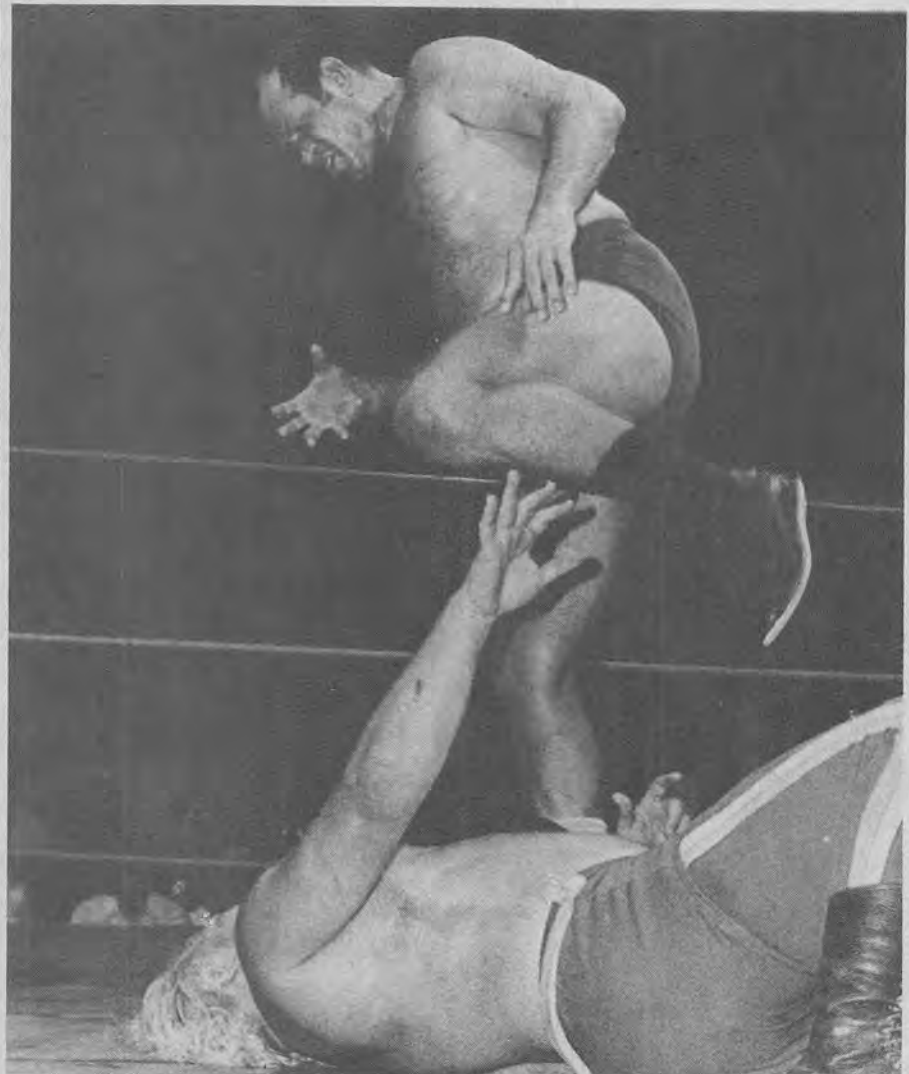
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FRITZ VON ERICH

(Continued from Page 27)



Von Erich is about to kick Moondog in the groin but he stops himself, proving to Mayne and everyone else that he is not the dirty wrestler he was years ago. "That's behind me, now," stresses Fritz.

Fritz refused to brawl also.

After the match Moondog met with his old friend Fritz. Mayne asked Fritz why he hadn't brawled that night. Von Erich proceeded to explain about how he had changed his ways. It was more than Moondog could handle. He challenged Fritz to a match. He wondered how long Von Erich could stay scientific against him.

It was a challenge Fritz could not refuse. Here, once and for all, he could prove to the fans that he really had changed his ways. Against a wrestler like Moondog Mayne, Fritz felt, he would shine. He would prove scientific wrestling would win out over illegal tactics.

But Moondog didn't quite see things the same way as Fritz. He be-

lieved he could make his old friend Fritz revert to a style he, Mayne, liked better. After all, Moondog thought, Von Erich just needs to be shown what works better. Mayne was just the man to do such a thing.

Many people were curious to see how Fritz would react when matched against a friend from his rulebreaking days. Some feared Moondog might just be able to trigger a reaction which could make Von Erich return to his former ways.

The match started with Moondog grabbing Fritz and trying to knock some sense into his head — by smashing it into the turnbuckle! This maneuver clearly angered Von Erich, but it did not make him lose his cool. He allowed Mayne to do his worst.

Fritz refused to lose his temper, but he also refused to lose the match.

After several months of withstanding Moondog's vicious attack, Fritz mounted his own assault. In very little time, Von Erich had overpowered and defeated his opponent, but he had not once broken a single rule!



Fritz won't stand a sneak attack. He punishes Moondog by bashing his head hard on the ring steps.

The fans went wild with enthusiastic applause for Fritz. He had proven himself to be a changed man. He had shown one need not break the rules in order to win matches.

Moondog Mayne was upset, to say the least. It didn't bother him so much that he didn't win the match; he was upset that he had not succeeded in bringing Fritz Von Erich back to the fold.

In the meantime, Fritz was basking in his glory. But his happiness was to be short-lived. Moondog Mayne immediately challenged him to another match. He is a determined man, and he is going to get Von Erich to change his ways, somehow.

But Fritz is equally determined. He likes his new popularity. He enjoys using only scientific methods in order to win matches. His only regret is that he now must face men like Moondog Mayne—men with whom he was once friendly, but is no longer. As long as he continues to wrestle these men, his past will haunt him. These men will all try to make him revert to his old style. And the fans will worry about Fritz every time he wrestles. □

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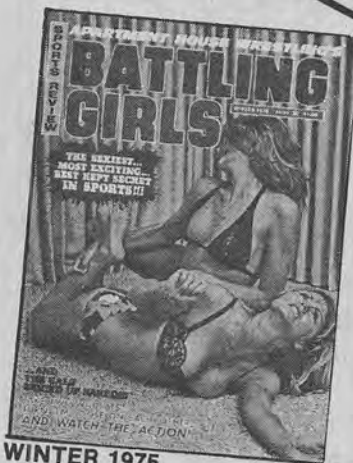
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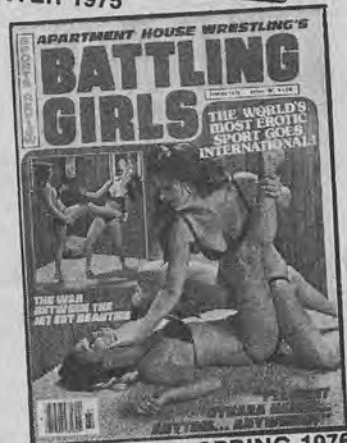
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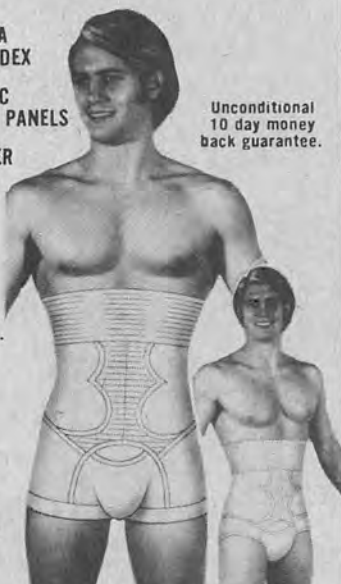
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 10)



Dennis Stamp once held the "Beat The Champ" title when he was in California. Dennis now holds the "Brass Knucks title" and has defended it against some of the most vicious rulebreakers in the sport. Dennis hopes to get a shot at the NWA belt soon.

"They're afraid I'll become cham-
pion and cripple everyone. I'm
sure Funk will wrestle me if the
match was sanctioned. And I'm
sure Funk knows that match
would be his downfall!"

Q: Beside the "Brass Knucks" title,
what other title has Dennis Stamp
held recently?—Nat Wessen,
Dallas, Texas

A: Dennis held the "Beat the Champ"
title in California just over a year
ago.

Q: What ever happened to Bobby
Davis, the manager of Buddy
Rogers?—Mike Heppart Toronto,
Ontario

A: Davis is in the real estate business.
He has no immediate plans to re-
turn to wrestling.

Q: Is it true Sir Dudley Clements is
dead?—Kelley O'Farran, Omaha,
Nebraska

A: Yes. Clements was killed in an
auto accident earlier this year.

Q: I think the new team of Johnny
and Victor Rivera is great. Do they
plan to team permanently?—Larry
Zelfan, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A: They only plan to team on
occasion. Both are more inter-

ested in concentrating on single
battles.

Q: Please settle this argument! My
mother says Tony Garea is from
England. I say he's from New
Zealand. Who's right?—Pam
Jackley, San Francisco, California

A: You are, Pam! It looks like your
mother owes you an apology!

Q: I saw Pedro Morales team with
Bob Backlund in a recent match.
What does the former WWF
champion think of young Back-
lund?—Jack Realter, St. Louis,
Missouri

A: "I think he's a good wrestler and
I predict someday he will become a
champion," Pedro said.

Q: Is Raymond Rougeau still wres-
tling?—Helen Franks, Buffalo,
New York

A: Yes he is. Fans in Missouri and
other Canadian areas are currently
having the pleasure of seeing sen-
sational Raymond grapple.

Q: How did Billy Robinson do on his
recent Japanese tour?—Larry
Helman, Miami, Florida

A: Billy won all of his matches. He is
now back in the states wrestling
in both NWA and AWA areas.

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 18)

terror of the WWF. Bruno put an end to that pretty quick! It's a warning for all those who wish to take the WWF crown by cheating. They can't do it as long as Bruno is around!

I don't care who tries to take Sammartino's title. No one will unseat the great Bruno!

ROSALITA PEREZ
Scarsdale, N.Y.



Harely Race is one of the many reasons Kansas City wrestling is among the best in the world.

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I've been a wrestling fan for years but I've never seen any team as great as those Indian braves! They can make any match a classic with their great maneuvers and incredible courage. They've got to be the best ever.

When all other teams are quaking in fear of The Executioners, we're lucky we've got Chief Jay Strongbow and Billy White Wolf to save the sport's honor!

JAMES BRENKROSI
Pittsburgh, Pa.

KANSAS CITY MAN

My job has taken me all over the country and I've seen wrestling everywhere. You really know what it's about when you say "Kansas City Wrestling: One Step Above Legalized Murder" (THE WRESTLER/November 1976). Truer words were never said!

I've seen things happen in Kansas City regularly that would be unthinkable anywhere else. It's incredible how they ignore the rules and just go for blood. Even the preliminary guys are animals!

(Continued on page 60)



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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 59)



Greg follows the straight-and-narrow path of scientific wrestling. cage match is one of the reasons most experts say Greg is doomed to be a rulebreaker all his life. However, many fans are hoping Greg follow the straight-and-narrow path of scientific wrestling.

There's something about Kansas City that makes wrestlers go crazy. I don't know what it is, but you can bet I'll never miss seeing it in action!

BILL SYDNEY
Wichita, Ka.

BEHIND US

Though I like watching Angelo Mosca wrestle and want to know more about him, I want you to know I'm 100% behind your feature story boycott on the wrestler ("Why Has the Press Avoided Angelo Mosca?" [THE WRESTLER/November 1976]).

Mosca has got to learn humility towards reporters as well as fans. He's not as good as he thinks he is—no one could be that good.

Keep after Mosca! He really needs it.

SARA LOU COLLINS
New Orleans, La.

ALWAYS HOPE

Although your article proved conclusively that Mil Mascaras and Edouard Carpentier will never be tag team partners ("The Tag Team That Can Never Be" [THE WRESTLER/November 1976]), there's still hope.

My friends and I will never give up praying this tag team will come into being. They are the two greatest wrestlers in the world; a tag team combining them would be the greatest ever.

I know I sound like millions of other fans who hope against hope. Though Carpentier and Mascaras make sound arguments for never teaming, never is a long time. If the right things happen, miracles are possible.

Here's hoping.

KAY SAMSON
Chicago, Ill.

ANYTHING POSSIBLE

I think you guys are full of it. You should take the story, "You Cannot Escape Your Past" (THE WRESTLER/November 1976), and shove it down your throats!

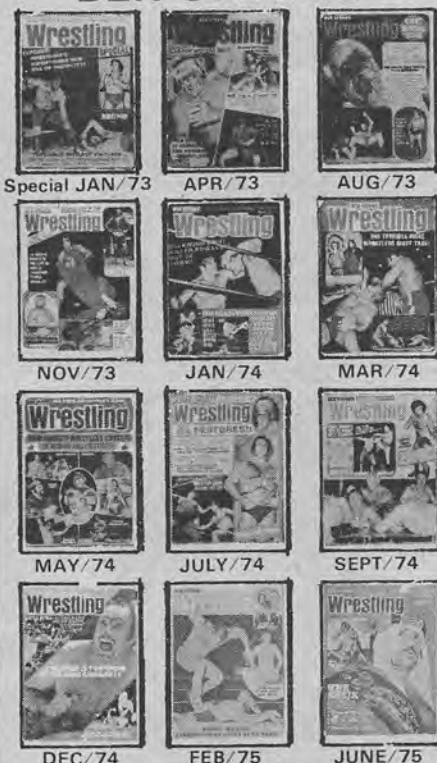
Greg Valentine is doing a great job in the South, wrestling with dignity and intelligence. He has earned the respect and loyalty of everyone. Yet, your article condemns him without really giving him a fair chance.

Everyone deserves to be judged on his merits. You guys attack Greg for no cause. You guys make me sick!

SIMON YOUNG
Miami, Fla. □

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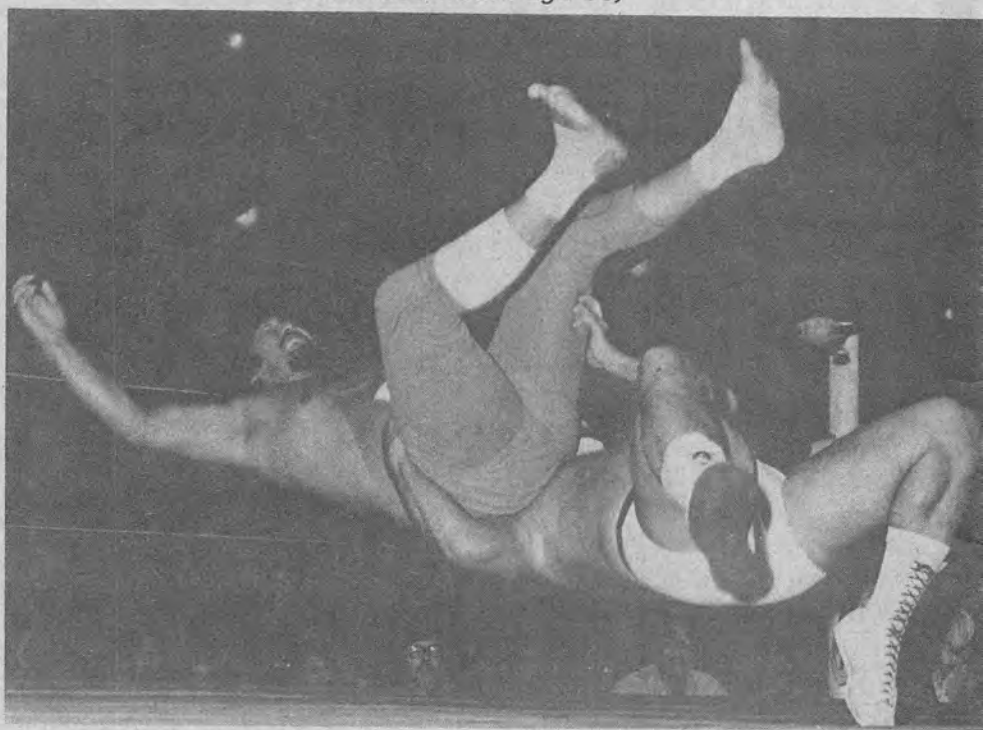
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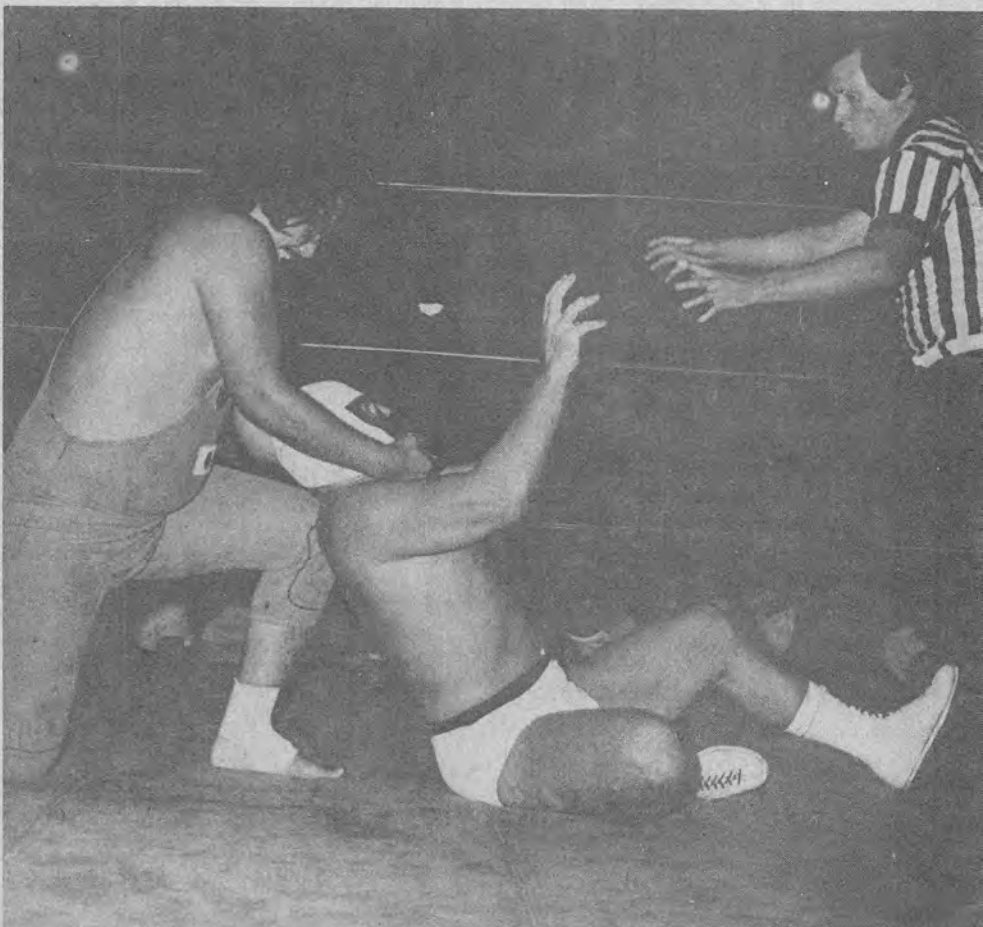
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Mr. Wrestling II's Own Story

(Continued from Page 33)



A backdrop finally finishes off the Japanese judo expert (above). He does show some knowledge of scientific holds (below) when he locks Mr. Wrestling II in a chinlock. "I would have loved to go into a scientific match against him," Mr. Wrestling II said.



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traces of my personality. One dead giveaway to a man's personality is how he dresses. If I had worn a flashy outfit while wrestling, people would have had some idea as to the man behind the mask. This is not what I wanted. I felt that by wearing white, I was telling people as little as possible about me personally. I wanted people to respect and admire the wrestler, not the man. After all, it was the wrestler who was on this quest to rid the sport of its rulebreakers, not just the man.

"All in all, white was the one color which personified everything I wanted to represent. It was the only logical choice open to me, if I wished to succeed in my quest.

"But I must add one more note. I will not change my color; I will not remove my mask until the sport is rid of these men who do not deserve to call themselves wrestlers. They are a blight on the noble sport. I do not wish to have them around.

"If any man can rid the sport of these rulebreakers, I can. I am determined to do just that. I don't know how long it will take me. But there is one thing I do know: Someday only men who wrestle scientifically will be allowed to wrestle. All others will have to deal with me!

"I see a day when all of wrestling will unite behind the color white. After all, it stands for purity, courage, and innocence. Our values have become so corrupted and twisted over the course of the past few years it has sickened me. I want to make it all right again.

"And when that day comes I will be able to throw off my mask and once again reveal my face to the world. Because by that point in time there will be no fear left. Wrestling fans can once again be proud of *all* men who call themselves wrestlers. Then there will be no need for a Mr. Wrestling II.

"But until that day comes, I will continue to strive for purity in the sport of wrestling. I can only hope that all fans will look to me to guide them. And I can only pray that other wrestlers will follow my lead.

"The day of reckoning is coming. It may be sooner than any of us think!"

Indeed, if Mr. Wrestling II has anything to say about it, that day of reckoning may come very soon. ☐

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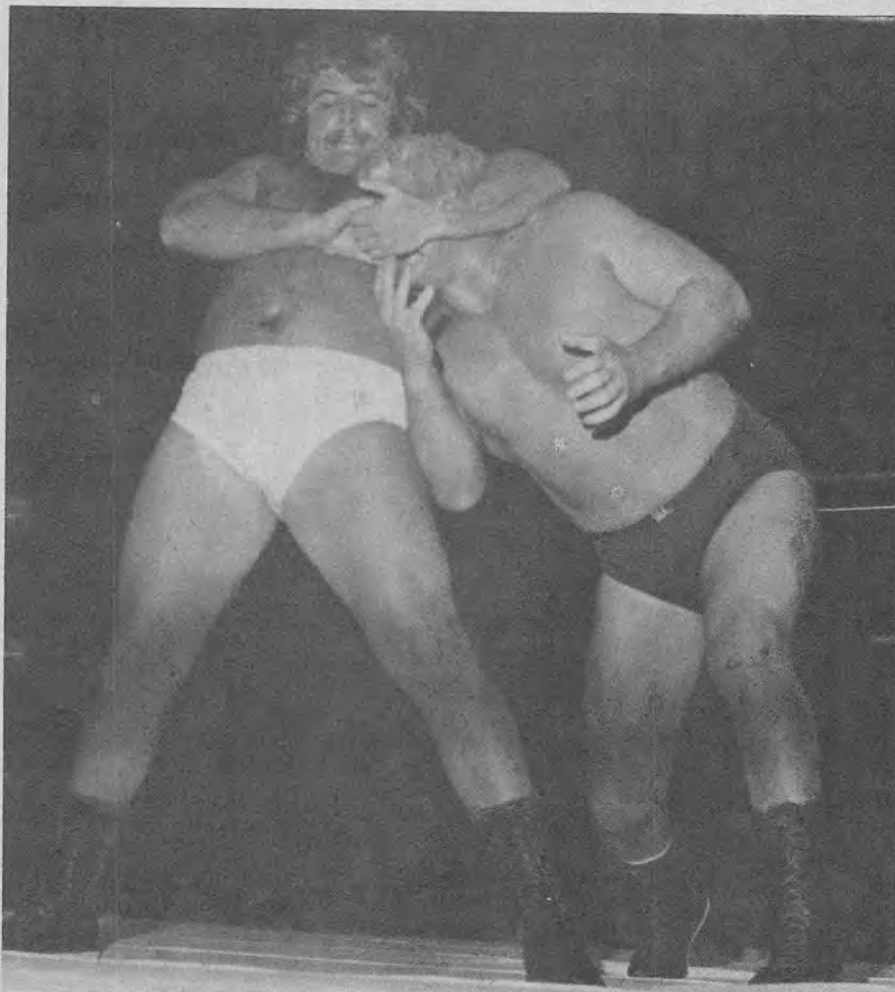
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MIKE GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 48)



Mike applies a crushing headlock on his opponent (above). Mike's got to be careful now that his father is NWA president. No matter what he does—good or bad—it will look as though his father had a hand in it. As a tag team (below) Mike and Eddie went through some rough moments. Now the going may even be rougher for both of them.



Mike thinks the opposite may be closer to the reality of the situation. For Mike sees his father's new position as meaning more trouble to him than he's ever had before.

Mike knows his father well. Mike knows that Eddie has always strived to be totally fair in all his business dealings, and that he will bring that same sense of fairness to his administration of the NWA. But Mike fears that Eddie's quest for fairness might be disastrous for him. It could be, the young man feels, that Eddie will bend over backwards to show no favoritism at all towards his son, or might even try to hamper Mike's efforts in the association.

It is well known that Mike wants to have a chance at Terry Funk's championship. Before the change in top personnel, Mike had been nego-

tiating with the association to wrestle in a title match against Terry Funk. But as soon as his father assumed the responsibilities of the presidency, all talk was quickly shelved until some time in the distant future. It was reputed this was done on the orders of Eddie Graham.

But many observers refuse to believe any of this. They say Eddie will soon start showing favoritism towards his son. They maintain there will soon come a time when Mike wrestles in championship matches at every available opportunity, until he wins the title. They refuse to believe anything else could possibly be true. These people look only for the darkest motive from other people.

There are other problems worrying Mike. He fears that if he should come into a dispute with another wrestler which must be settled by the NWA, his father, trying to appear fair, will rule against him.

So naturally Mike is slightly upset by the predicament his father's ascendancy to the presidency of the NWA has placed him in. He fears he may have to take some kind of drastic action—like moving to another area—while his father remains as president. But a move like that could be interpreted as a slap in the face to his father by some people.

And if, by some chance, Mike does succeed in winning Terry Funk's title (as many experts think he can do), he worries that some people will think he won just because of who his father is. In other words, Mike is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

So now, the young man's future is really in doubt. He would like things to remain as they have always been, yet he fears this will not be so. As long as Eddie Graham is president of the NWA, people will watch every move Mike makes carefully. There will be nothing the young man can do that will not be watched by many.

"It's like this," Mike explained. "Think of the most private thing you have ever done. Now, you are secure in its privacy, because it was the most private intimate thing you have ever done. Well, 500 people saw you do it! That's how I feel now. It's like living in a fishbowl."

"Something must change. I don't know when or how, but something has to change!" □

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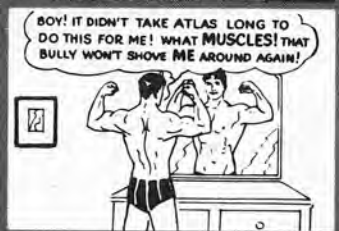
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